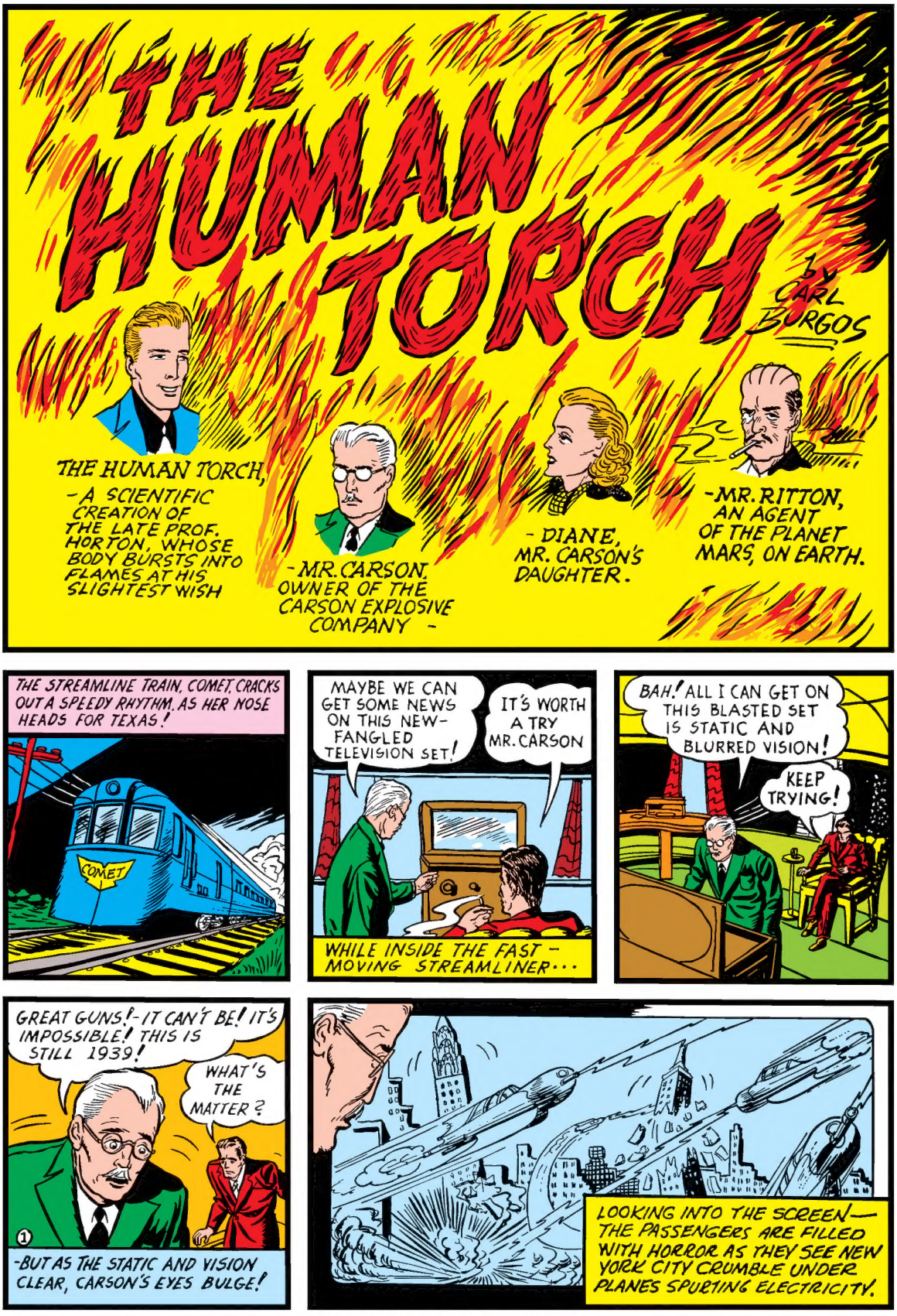
KA-ZAR–HUMAN TORCH—THE ANGEL—SUB-MARINER

MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS

No 3 JANUARY

Unaware of death behind him THE ANGEL went into action


THE HUMAN TORCH
BY CARL BURGOS
THE HUMAN TORCH, -A SCIENTIFIC CREATION OF THE LATE PROF. HORTON, WHOSE BODY BURSTS INTO FLAMES AT HIS SLIGHTEST WISH
-MR. CARSON, OWNER OF THE CARSON EXPLOSIVE COMPANY -
- DIANE, MR. CARSON'S DAUGHTER.
-MR. RITTON, AN AGENT OF THE PLANET MARS, ON EARTH.
THE STREAMLINE TRAIN, COMET, CRACKS OUT A SPEEDY RHYTHM, AS HER NOSE HEADS FOR TEXAS!
COMET
MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME NEWS ON THIS NEW-FANGLED TELEVISION SET!
IT'S WORTH A TRY MR. CARSON
WHILE INSIDE THE FAST - MOVING STREAMLINER...
BAH! ALL I CAN GET ON THIS BLASTED SET IS STATIC AND BLURRED VISION!
KEEP TRYING!
GREAT GUNS! - IT CAN'T BE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THIS IS STILL 1939!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
-BUT AS THE STATIC AND VISION CLEAR, CARSON'S EYES BULGE!
LOOKING INTO THE SCREEN— THE PASSENGERS ARE FILLED WITH HORROR AS THEY SEE NEW YORK CITY CRUMBLE UNDER PLANES SPURTING ELECTRICITY.

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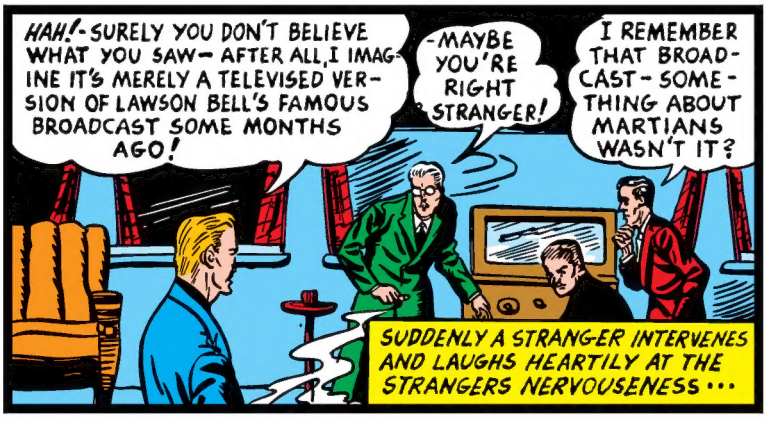
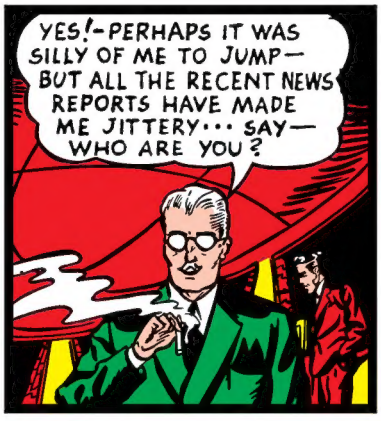
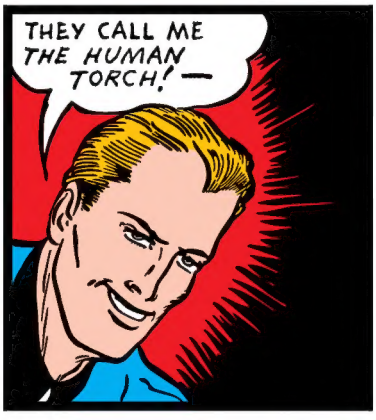
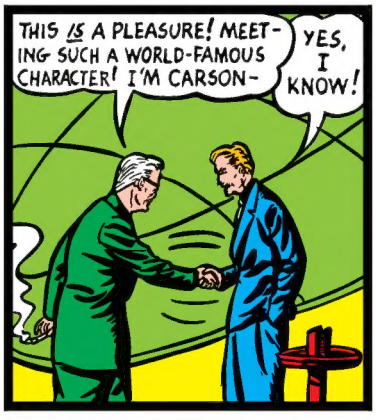
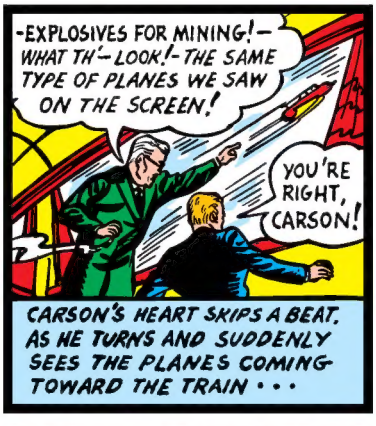

HAH!-SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAW- AFTER ALL, I IMAGINE IT'S MERELY A TELEVISED VERSION OF LAWSON BELL'S FAMOUS BROADCAST SOME MONTHS AGO!
-MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT STRANGER!
I REMEMBER THAT BROADCAST - SOMETHING ABOUT MARTIANS WASN'T IT?
SUDDENLY A STRANGER INTERVENES AND LAUGHS HEARTILY AT THE STRANGERS NERVOUSENESS ...

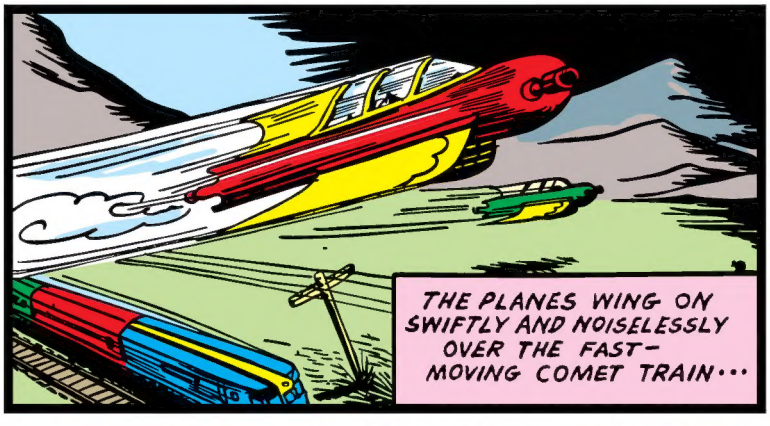

YES!-PERHAPS IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO JUMP— BUT ALL THE RECENT NEWS REPORTS HAVE MADE ME JITTERY... SAY— WHO ARE YOU?

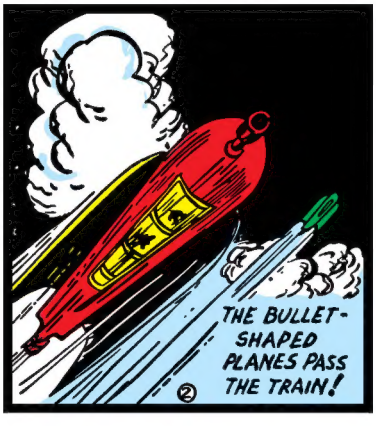

THEY CALL ME THE HUMAN TORCH!—

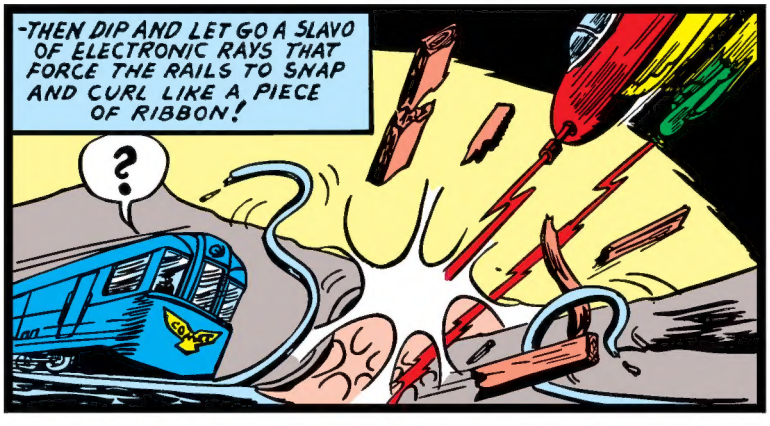

THIS IS A PLEASURE! MEETING SUCH A WORLD-FAMOUS CHARACTER! I'M CARSON-
YES, I KNOW!

YOU KNOW ME, EH? -BUT WHY ARE YOU GOING TO TEXAS, TORCH?
YES!
OH!-JUST TO LOOK OVER THE SCENERY—YOU'RE IN THE EXPLOSIVE BUSINESS?


-EXPLOSIVES FOR MINING!— WHAT TH'—LOOK!-THE SAME TYPE OF PLANES WE SAW ON THE SCREEN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CARSON!
CARSON'S HEART SKIPS A BEAT, AS HE TURNS AND SUDDENLY SEES THE PLANES COMING TOWARD THE TRAIN ...


THE PLANES WING ON SWIFTLY AND NOISELESSLY OVER THE FAST-MOVING COMET TRAIN...


THE BULLET-SHAPED PLANES PASS THE TRAIN!
2


-THEN DIP AND LET GO A SLAVO OF ELECTRONIC RAYS THAT FORCE THE RAILS TO SNAP AND CURL LIKE A PIECE OF RIBBON!
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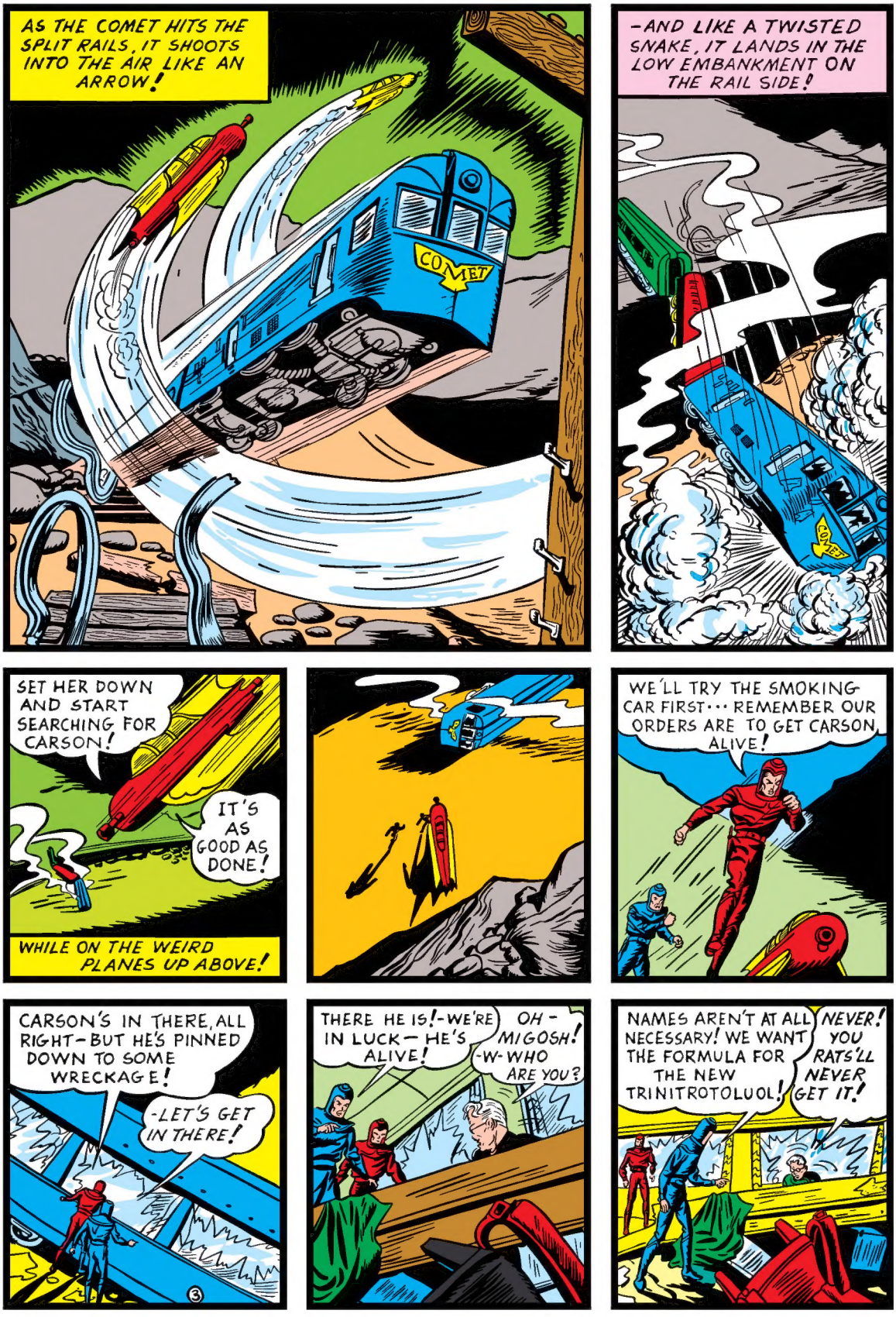
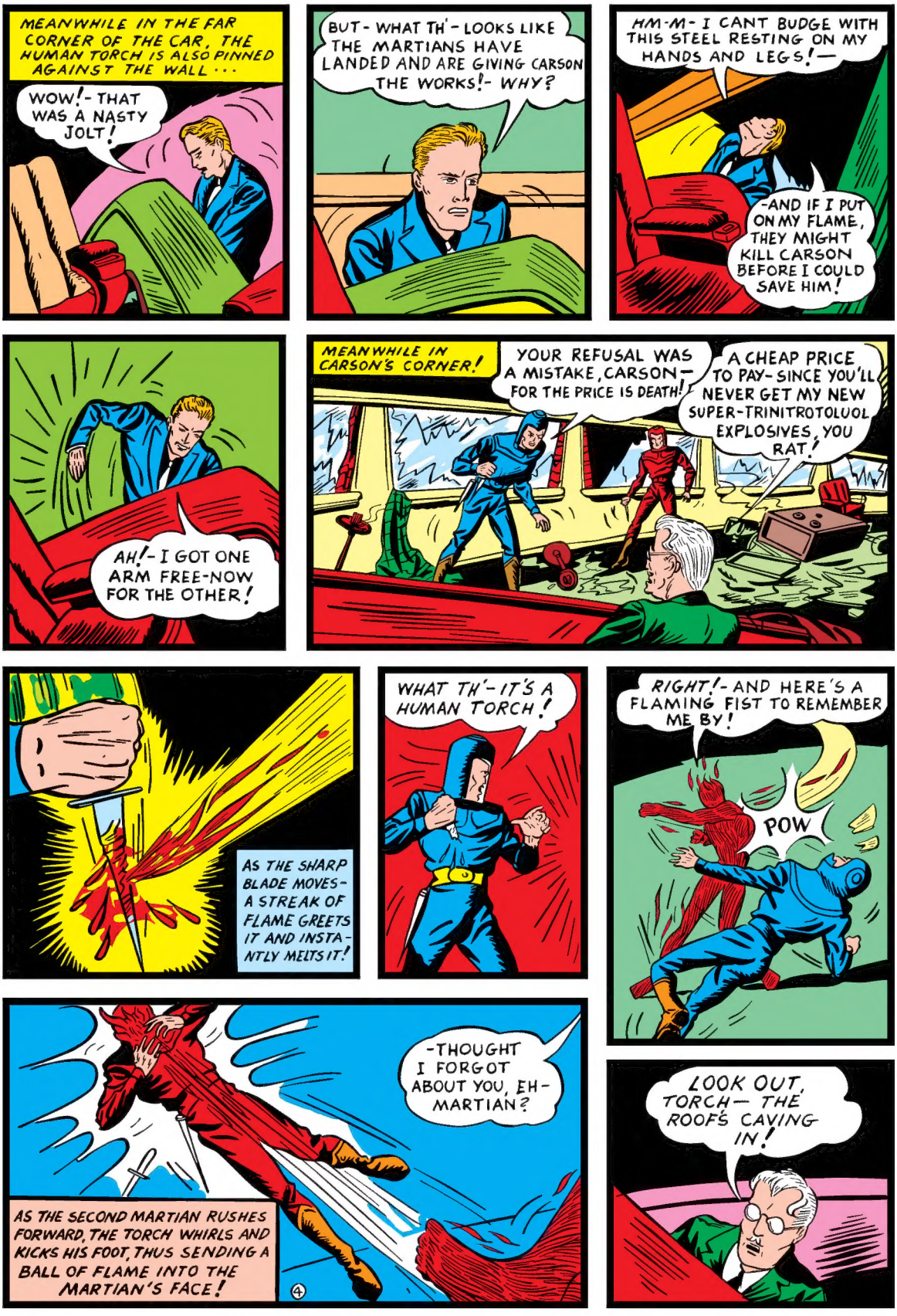
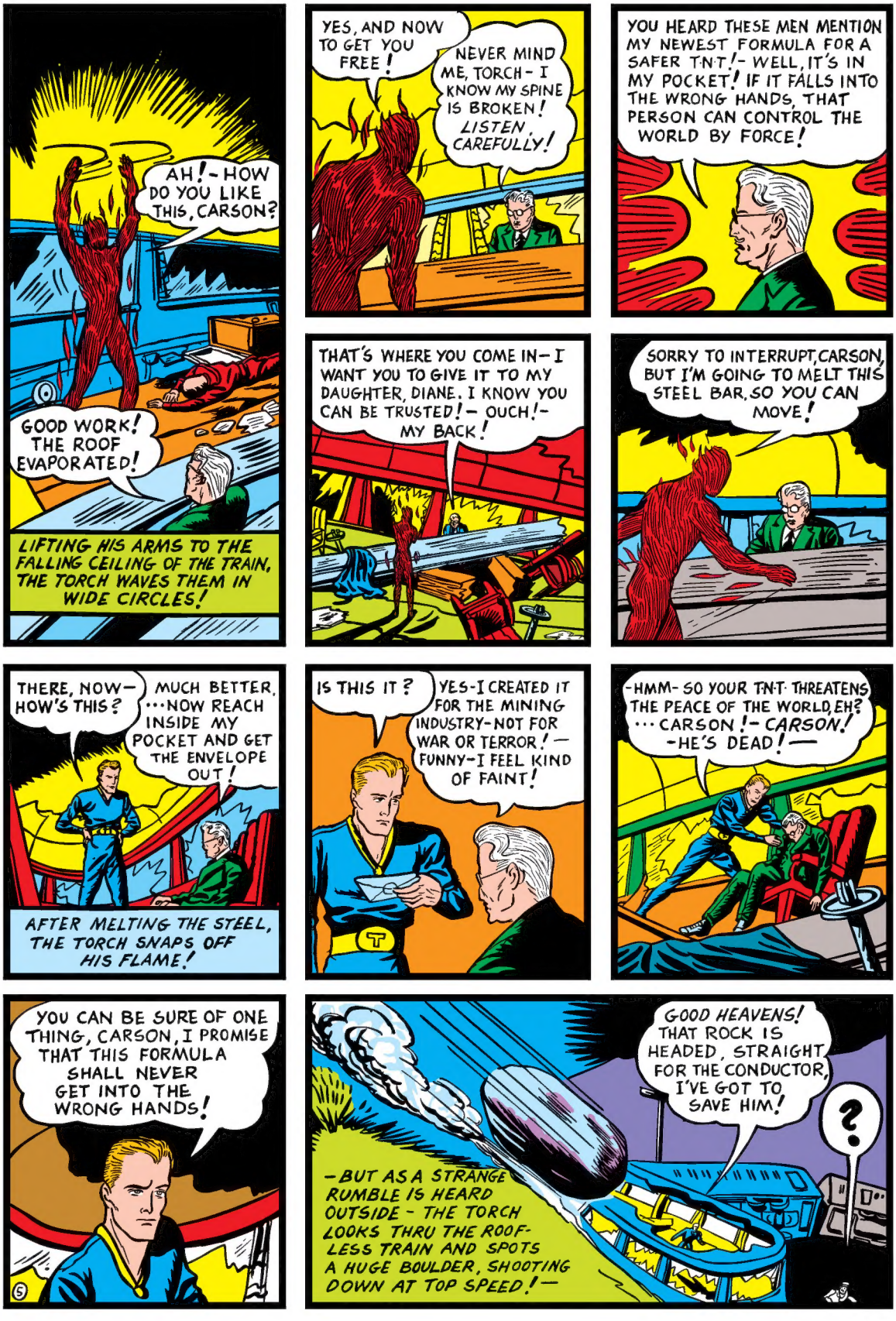
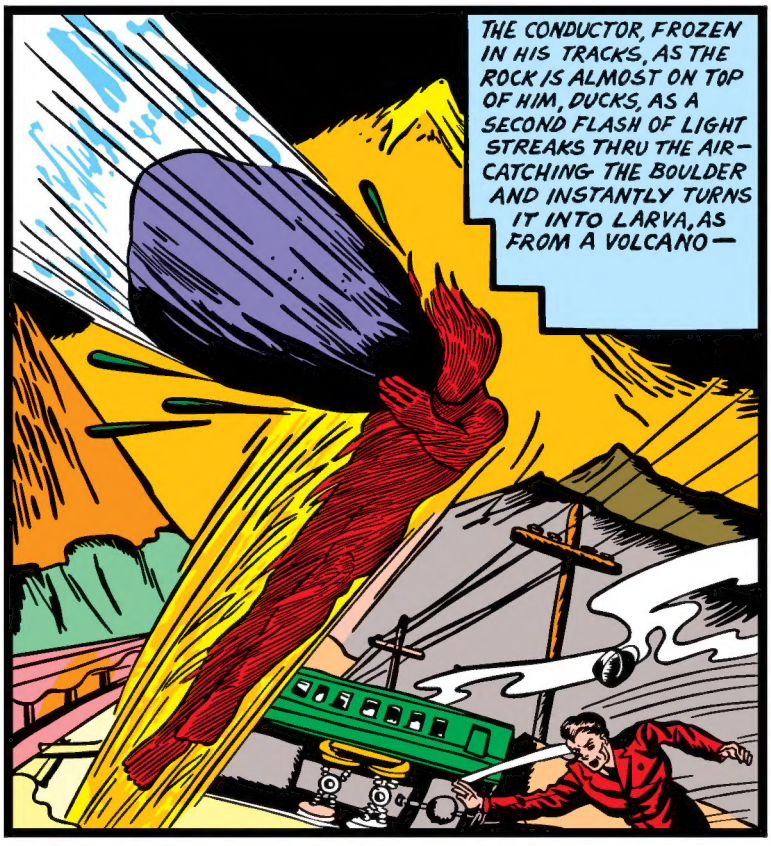

AS THE COMET HITS THE SPLIT RAILS, IT SHOOTS INTO THE AIR LIKE AN ARROW!
COMET
-AND LIKE A TWISTED SNAKE, IT LANDS IN THE LOW EMBANKMENT ON THE RAIL SIDE!
COMET
SET HER DOWN AND START SEARCHING FOR CARSON!
IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!
WHILE ON THE WEIRD PLANES UP ABOVE!
WE'LL TRY THE SMOKING CAR FIRST··· REMEMBER OUR ORDERS ARE TO GET CARSON ALIVE!
CARSON'S IN THERE, ALL RIGHT-BUT HE'S PINNED DOWN TO SOME WRECKAGE!
-LET'S GET IN THERE!
3
THERE HE IS!-WE'RE IN LUCK-HE'S ALIVE!
OH-MIGOSH! -W-WHO ARE YOU?
NAMES AREN'T AT ALL NECESSARY! WE WANT THE FORMULA FOR THE NEW TRINITROTOLUOL!
NEVER! YOU RATS'LL NEVER GET IT!

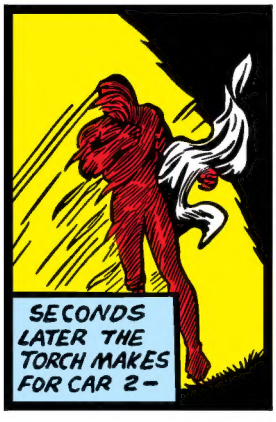

MEANWHILE IN THE FAR CORNER OF THE CAR, THE HUMAN TORCH IS ALSO PINNED AGAINST THE WALL · · ·
WOW!- THAT WAS A NASTY JOLT!
BUT- WHAT TH'- LOOKS LIKE THE MARTIANS HAVE LANDED AND ARE GIVING CARSON THE WORKS!- WHY?
HM-M- I CANT BUDGE WITH THIS STEEL RESTING ON MY HANDS AND LEGS!—
-AND IF I PUT ON MY FLAME, THEY MIGHT KILL CARSON BEFORE I COULD SAVE HIM!
AH!- I GOT ONE ARM FREE-NOW FOR THE OTHER!
MEANWHILE IN CARSON'S CORNER!
YOUR REFUSAL WAS A MISTAKE, CARSON— FOR THE PRICE IS DEATH!
A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY- SINCE YOU'LL NEVER GET MY NEW SUPER-TRINITROTOLUOL EXPLOSIVES, YOU RAT!
AS THE SHARP BLADE MOVES- A STREAK OF FLAME GREETS IT AND INSTA-NTLY MELTS IT!
WHAT TH'- IT'S A HUMAN TORCH!
RIGHT!- AND HERE'S A FLAMING FIST TO REMEMBER ME BY!
POW
-THOUGHT I FORGOT ABOUT YOU, EH- MARTIAN?
AS THE SECOND MARTIAN RUSHES FORWARD, THE TORCH WHIRLS AND KICKS HIS FOOT, THUS SENDING A BALL OF FLAME INTO THE MARTIAN'S FACE!
4
LOOK OUT, TORCH— THE ROOF'S CAVING IN!

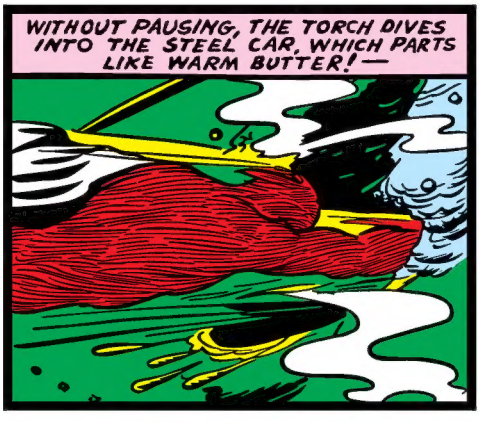

AH! - HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS, CARSON?
GOOD WORK! THE ROOF EVAPORATED!
LIFTING HIS ARMS TO THE FALLING CEILING OF THE TRAIN, THE TORCH WAVES THEM IN WIDE CIRCLES!
YES, AND NOW TO GET YOU FREE!
NEVER MIND ME, TORCH - I KNOW MY SPINE IS BROKEN! LISTEN CAREFULLY!
YOU HEARD THESE MEN MENTION MY NEWEST FORMULA FOR A SAFER T·N·T! - WELL, IT'S IN MY POCKET! IF IT FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, THAT PERSON CAN CONTROL THE WORLD BY FORCE!
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN - I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO MY DAUGHTER, DIANE. I KNOW YOU CAN BE TRUSTED! - OUCH! - MY BACK!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, CARSON, BUT I'M GOING TO MELT THIS STEEL BAR, SO YOU CAN MOVE!
THERE, NOW - HOW'S THIS?
MUCH BETTER, ···NOW REACH INSIDE MY POCKET AND GET THE ENVELOPE OUT!
AFTER MELTING THE STEEL, THE TORCH SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME!
IS THIS IT?
YES - I CREATED IT FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY - NOT FOR WAR OR TERROR! — FUNNY - I FEEL KIND OF FAINT!
-HMM - SO YOUR T·N·T· THREATENS THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, EH? ··· CARSON! - CARSON! -HE'S DEAD! —
YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING, CARSON, I PROMISE THAT THIS FORMULA SHALL NEVER GET INTO THE WRONG HANDS!
6
-BUT AS A STRANGE RUMBLE IS HEARD OUTSIDE - THE TORCH LOOKS THRU THE ROOF-LESS TRAIN AND SPOTS A HUGE BOULDER, SHOOTING DOWN AT TOP SPEED! —
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT ROCK IS HEADED, STRAIGHT FOR THE CONDUCTOR, I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!
?

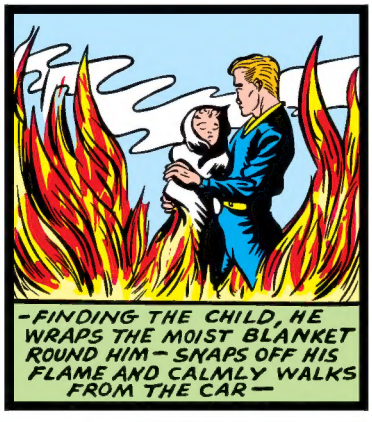

THE CONDUCTOR, FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS, AS THE ROCK IS ALMOST ON TOP OF HIM, DUCKS, AS A SECOND FLASH OF LIGHT STREAKS THRU THE AIR— CATCHING THE BOULDER AND INSTANTLY TURNS IT INTO LARVA, AS FROM A VOLCANO—

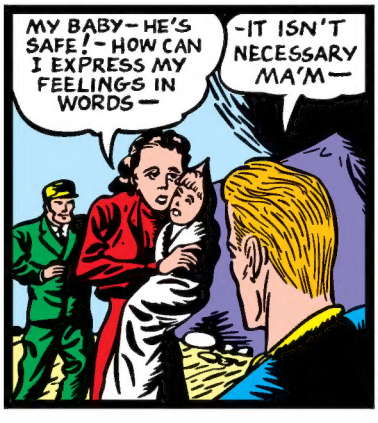
THANKS, TORCH, I SURE HAD A CLOSE CALL!
FORGET IT— I COULDN'T SEE YOU GET HURT— THAT'S ALL!
THE TORCH CAUSES THE FLAME TO VANISH

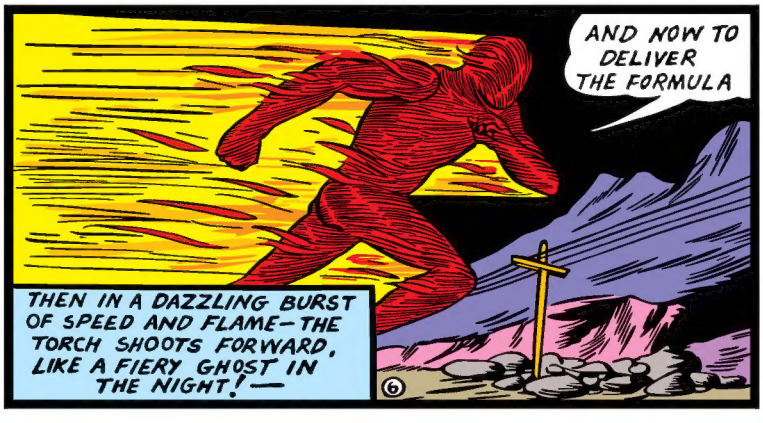
HELP!—MY BABY IS IN CAR 2—I CAN'T REACH HIM!
WHAT?
GET ME A WET BLANKET! —I'LL SAVE HIM!—

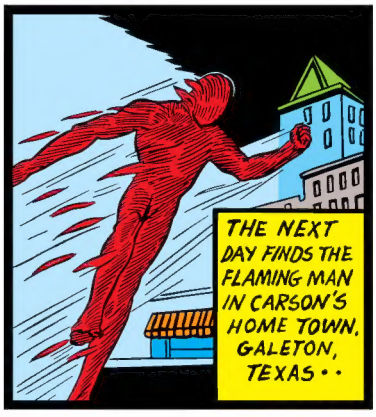

SECONDS LATER THE TORCH MAKES FOR CAR 2—

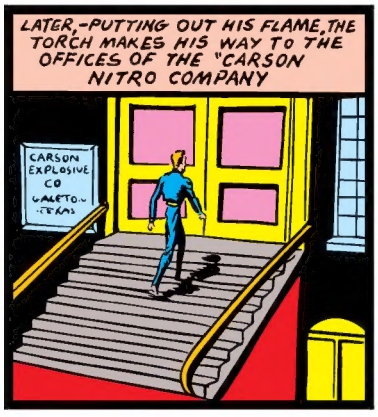

WITHOUT PAUSING, THE TORCH DIVES INTO THE STEEL CAR, WHICH PARTS LIKE WARM BUTTER!—


—FINDING THE CHILD, HE WRAPS THE MOIST BLANKET ROUND HIM— SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME AND CALMLY WALKS FROM THE CAR—


MY BABY—HE'S SAFE!—HOW CAN I EXPRESS MY FEELINGS IN WORDS—
—IT ISN'T NECESSARY MA'M—


AND NOW TO DELIVER THE FORMULA
THEN IN A DAZZLING BURST OF SPEED AND FLAME—THE TORCH SHOOTS FORWARD, LIKE A FIERY GHOST IN THE NIGHT!—
6

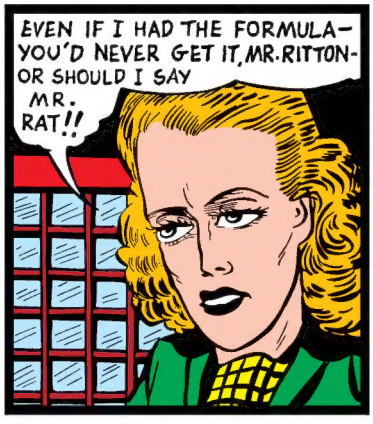

THE NEXT DAY FINDS THE FLAMING MAN IN CARSON'S HOME TOWN, GALETON, TEXAS..

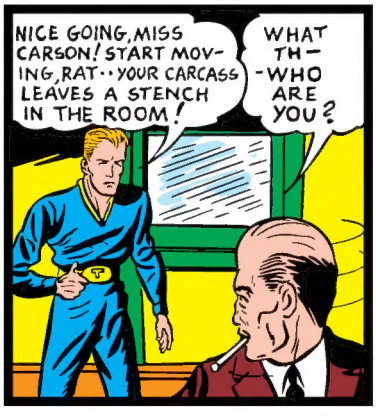

LATER,-PUTTING OUT HIS FLAME, THE TORCH MAKES HIS WAY TO THE OFFICES OF THE "CARSON NITRO COMPANY
CARSON EXPLOSIVE CO GALETON TEXAS

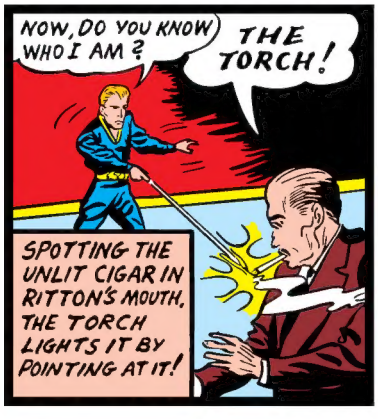
DON'T BE SCARED-THESE ARE THE ONLY CLOTHES I POSSESS···I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MISS DIANE CARSON— IMPORTANT!
-S-SHE'S BUSY AT THE MOMENT- YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT!
AND FRIGHTENS THE RECEPTIONIST BY HIS STRANGE GARB!—

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE IS DARNED MAD!
AS THE TORCH WAITS, HE HEARS AN ANGRY VOICE COMING FROM CARSON'S PRIVATE OFFICE—

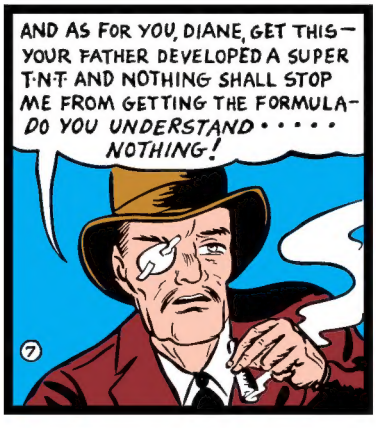
YOU'RE A FOOL, DIANE! I'LL GET THAT FORMULA ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
HE OPENS THE OFFICE DOOR AND WATCHES THE ARGUMENT—

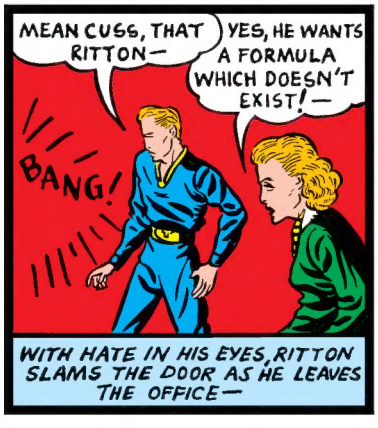

EVEN IF I HAD THE FORMULA— YOU'D NEVER GET IT, MR. RITTON- OR SHOULD I SAY MR. RAT!!

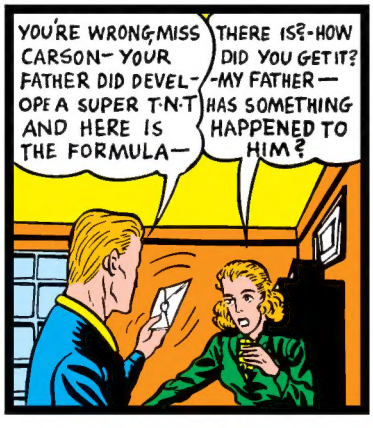

NICE GOING, MISS CARSON! START MOVING, RAT··YOUR CARCASS LEAVES A STENCH IN THE ROOM!
WHAT TH— -WHO ARE YOU?

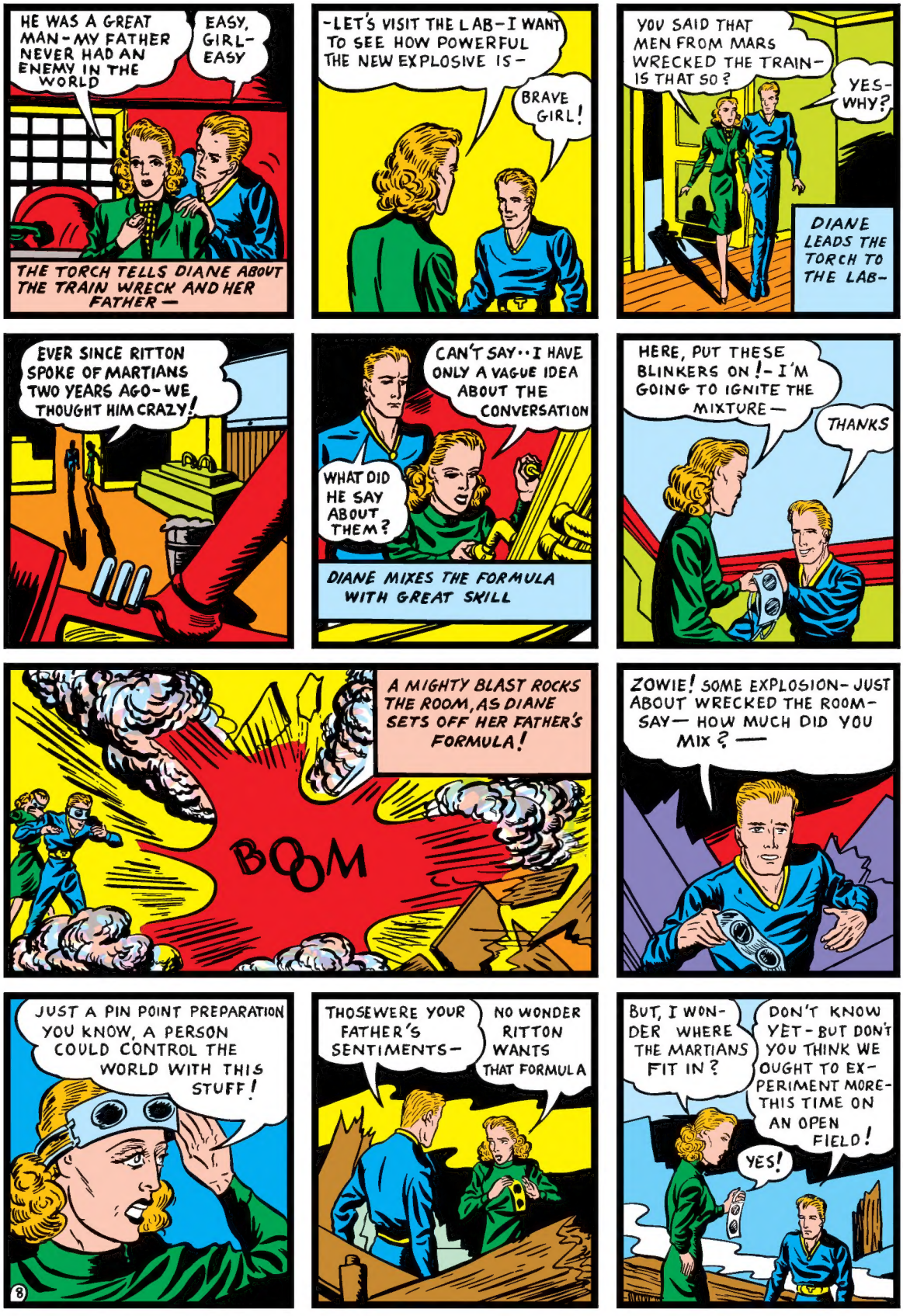

NOW, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
THE TORCH!
SPOTTING THE UNLIT CIGAR IN RITTON'S MOUTH, THE TORCH LIGHTS IT BY POINTING AT IT!

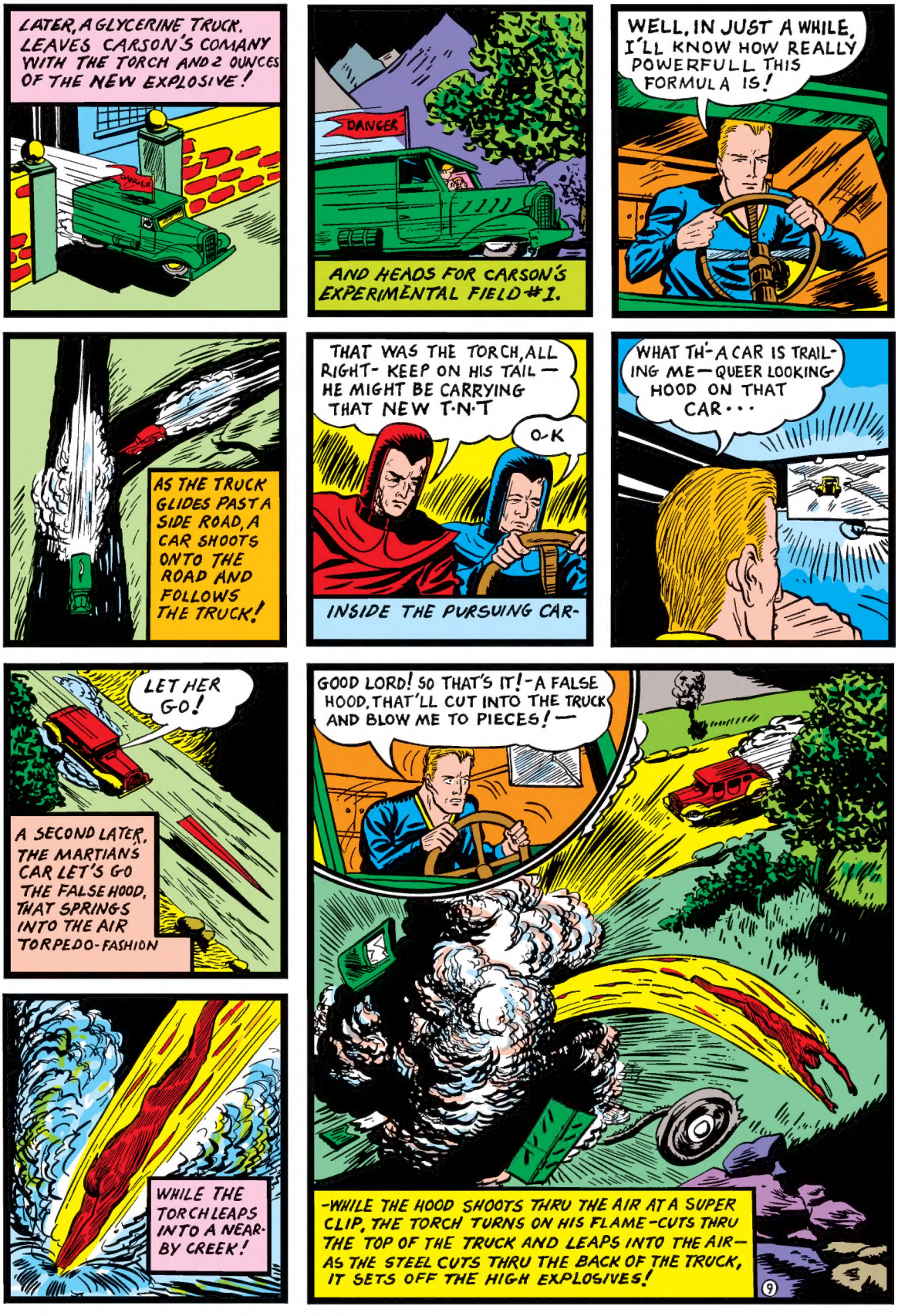
YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE FOR INTERFERING, TORCH— AND YOU'LL PAY A HEAVY PRICE FOR DOING SO!

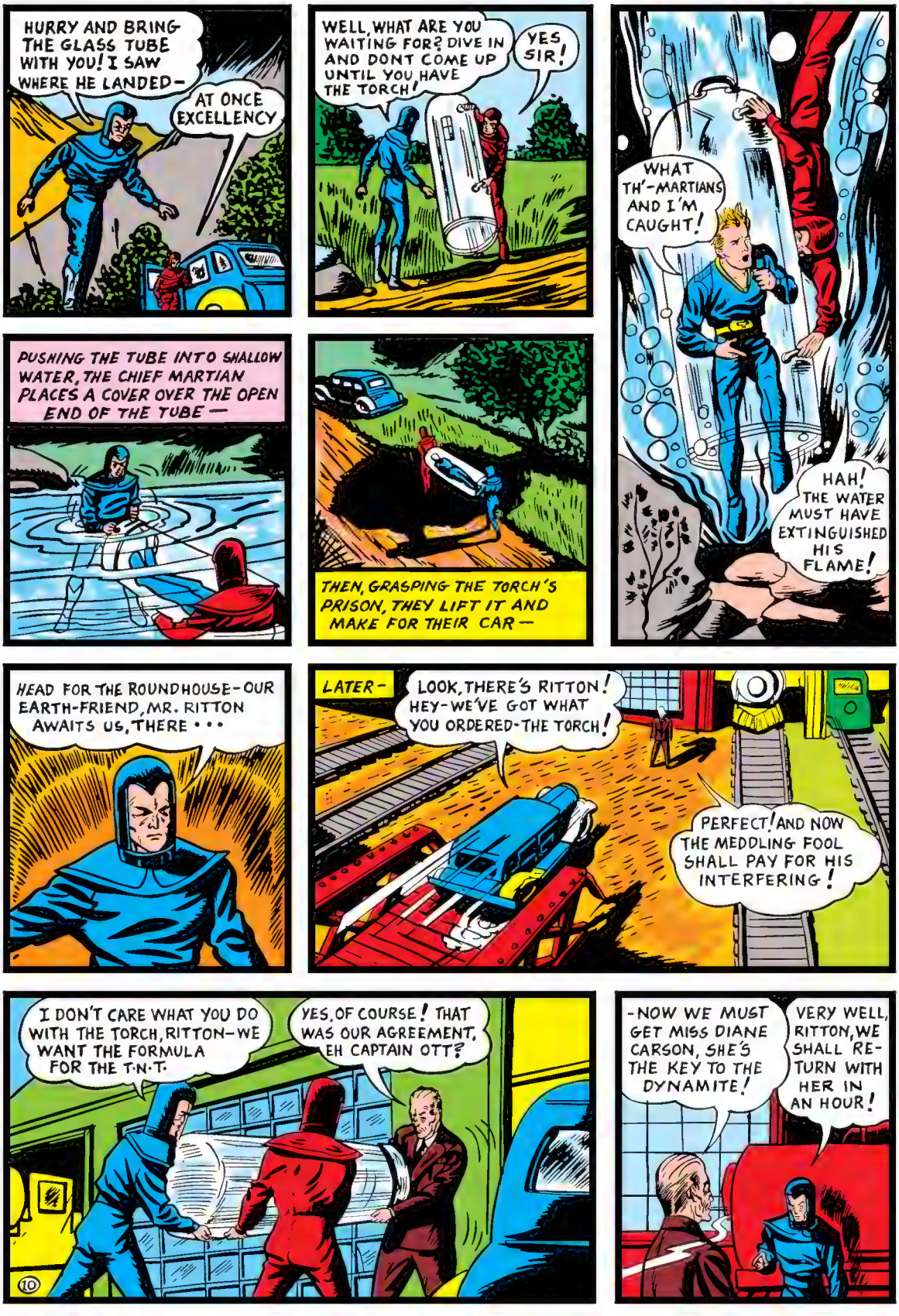

AND AS FOR YOU, DIANE, GET THIS— YOUR FATHER DEVELOPED A SUPER T·N·T AND NOTHING SHALL STOP ME FROM GETTING THE FORMULA- DO YOU UNDERSTAND····· NOTHING!
7

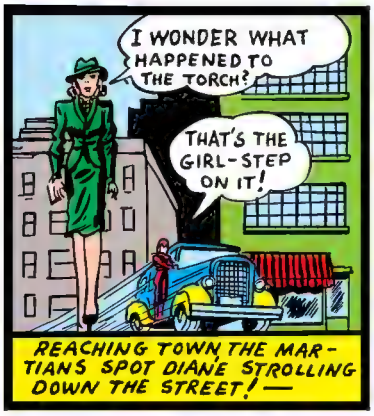

MEAN CUSS, THAT RITTON—
YES, HE WANTS A FORMULA WHICH DOESN'T EXIST!—
BANG!
WITH HATE IN HIS EYES, RITTON SLAMS THE DOOR AS HE LEAVES THE OFFICE—

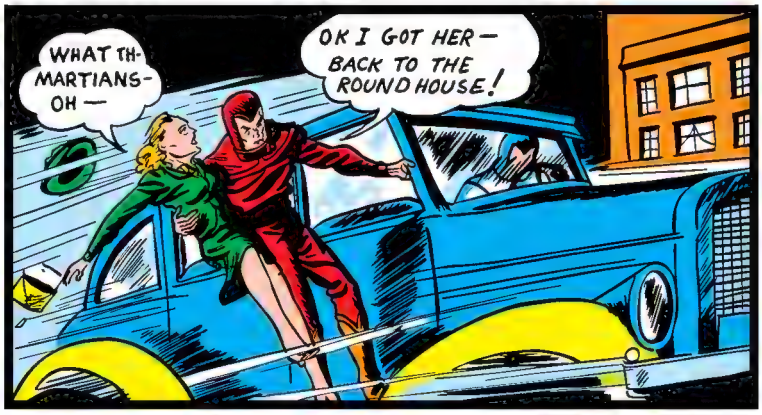

YOU'RE WRONG, MISS CARSON- YOUR FATHER DID DEVELOPE A SUPER T·N·T AND HERE IS THE FORMULA—
THERE IS?-HOW DID YOU GET IT? -MY FATHER— HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM?

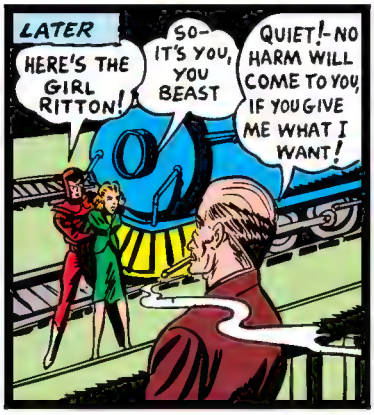

HE WAS A GREAT MAN - MY FATHER NEVER HAD AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD
EASY, GIRL - EASY
THE TORCH TELLS DIANE ABOUT THE TRAIN WRECK AND HER FATHER —
- LET'S VISIT THE LAB - I WANT TO SEE HOW POWERFUL THE NEW EXPLOSIVE IS -
BRAVE GIRL!
YOU SAID THAT MEN FROM MARS WRECKED THE TRAIN - IS THAT SO?
YES - WHY?
DIANE LEADS THE TORCH TO THE LAB -
EVER SINCE RITTON SPOKE OF MARTIANS TWO YEARS AGO - WE THOUGHT HIM CRAZY!
CAN'T SAY .. I HAVE ONLY A VAGUE IDEA ABOUT THE CONVERSATION
WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT THEM?
DIANE MIXES THE FORMULA WITH GREAT SKILL
HERE, PUT THESE BLINKERS ON! - I'M GOING TO IGNITE THE MIXTURE —
THANKS
BOOM
A MIGHTY BLAST ROCKS THE ROOM, AS DIANE SETS OFF HER FATHER'S FORMULA!
ZOWIE! SOME EXPLOSION - JUST ABOUT WRECKED THE ROOM - SAY — HOW MUCH DID YOU MIX? —
JUST A PIN POINT PREPARATION YOU KNOW, A PERSON COULD CONTROL THE WORLD WITH THIS STUFF!
8
THOSE WERE YOUR FATHER'S SENTIMENTS —
NO WONDER RITTON WANTS THAT FORMULA
BUT, I WONDER WHERE THE MARTIANS FIT IN?
DON'T KNOW YET - BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO EXPERIMENT MORE - THIS TIME ON AN OPEN FIELD!
YES!

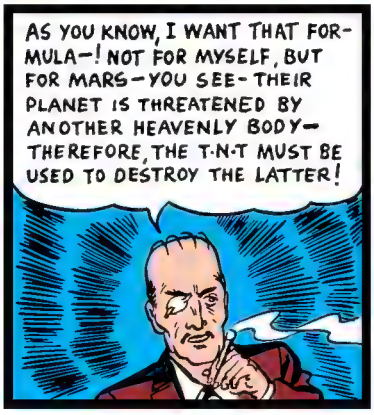

LATER, A GLYCERINE TRUCK, LEAVES CARSON'S COMANY WITH THE TORCH AND 2 OUNCES OF THE NEW EXPLOSIVE!
DANGER
DANGER
AND HEADS FOR CARSON'S EXPERIMENTAL FIELD #1.
WELL, IN JUST A WHILE, I'LL KNOW HOW REALLY POWERFULL THIS FORMULA IS!
AS THE TRUCK GLIDES PAST A SIDE ROAD, A CAR SHOOTS ONTO THE ROAD AND FOLLOWS THE TRUCK!
THAT WAS THE TORCH, ALL RIGHT- KEEP ON HIS TAIL — HE MIGHT BE CARRYING THAT NEW T·N·T
O-K
INSIDE THE PURSUING CAR-
WHAT TH'- A CAR IS TRAILING ME — QUEER LOOKING HOOD ON THAT CAR···
LET HER GO!
A SECOND LATER, THE MARTIANS CAR LET'S GO THE FALSE HOOD, THAT SPRINGS INTO THE AIR TORPEDO-FASHION
GOOD LORD! SO THAT'S IT! - A FALSE HOOD, THAT'LL CUT INTO THE TRUCK AND BLOW ME TO PIECES! —
WHILE THE TORCH LEAPS INTO A NEAR-BY CREEK!
-WHILE THE HOOD SHOOTS THRU THE AIR AT A SUPER CLIP, THE TORCH TURNS ON HIS FLAME - CUTS THRU THE TOP OF THE TRUCK AND LEAPS INTO THE AIR — AS THE STEEL CUTS THRU THE BACK OF THE TRUCK, IT SETS OFF THE HIGH EXPLOSIVES!
9

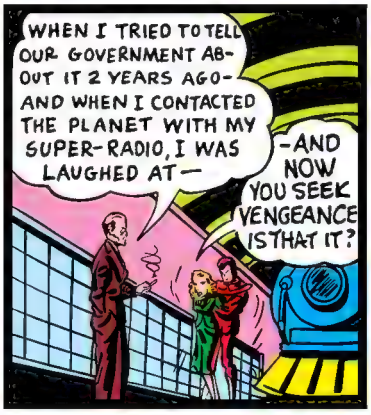

HURRY AND BRING THE GLASS TUBE WITH YOU! I SAW WHERE HE LANDED—
AT ONCE EXCELLENCY
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? DIVE IN AND DONT COME UP UNTIL YOU HAVE THE TORCH!
YES, SIR!
WHAT TH'—MARTIANS AND I'M CAUGHT!
HAH! THE WATER MUST HAVE EXTINGUISHED HIS FLAME!
PUSHING THE TUBE INTO SHALLOW WATER, THE CHIEF MARTIAN PLACES A COVER OVER THE OPEN END OF THE TUBE—
THEN, GRASPING THE TORCH'S PRISON, THEY LIFT IT AND MAKE FOR THEIR CAR—
HEAD FOR THE ROUNDHOUSE—OUR EARTH-FRIEND, MR. RITTON AWAITS US, THERE • • •
LATER—
LOOK, THERE'S RITTON! HEY—WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU ORDERED—THE TORCH!
PERFECT! AND NOW THE MEDDLING FOOL SHALL PAY FOR HIS INTERFERING!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH THE TORCH, RITTON—WE WANT THE FORMULA FOR THE T·N·T·
YES, OF COURSE! THAT WAS OUR AGREEMENT, EH CAPTAIN OTT?
—NOW WE MUST GET MISS DIANE CARSON, SHE'S THE KEY TO THE DYNAMITE!
VERY WELL, RITTON, WE SHALL RETURN WITH HER IN AN HOUR!
10

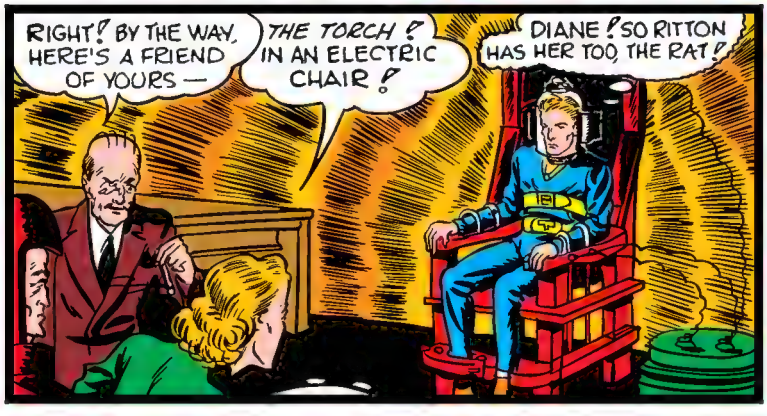

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TORCH?
THAT'S THE GIRL - STEP ON IT!
REACHING TOWN THE MARTIANS SPOT DIANE STROLLING DOWN THE STREET! —

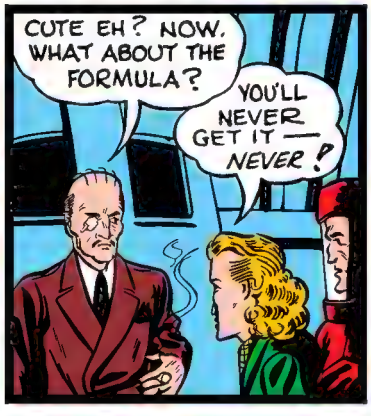

WHAT TH- MARTIANS - OH —
OK I GOT HER — BACK TO THE ROUND HOUSE!

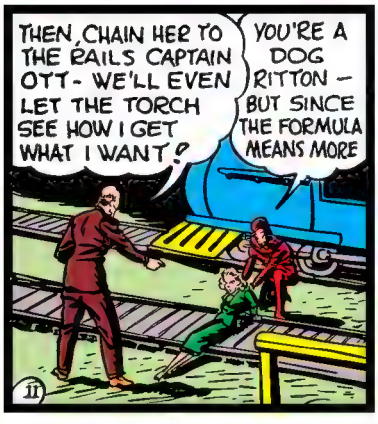

LATER
HERE'S THE GIRL RITTON!
SO- IT'S YOU, YOU BEAST
QUIET! - NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU, IF YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT!

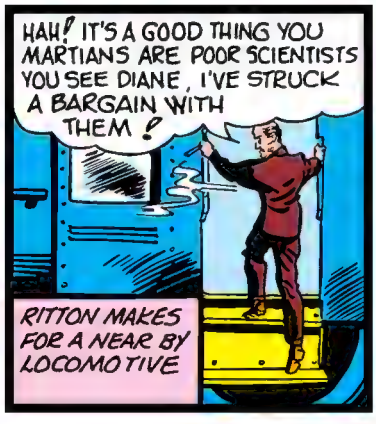

AS YOU KNOW, I WANT THAT FORMULA—! NOT FOR MYSELF, BUT FOR MARS—YOU SEE- THEIR PLANET IS THREATENED BY ANOTHER HEAVENLY BODY— THEREFORE, THE T-N-T MUST BE USED TO DESTROY THE LATTER!

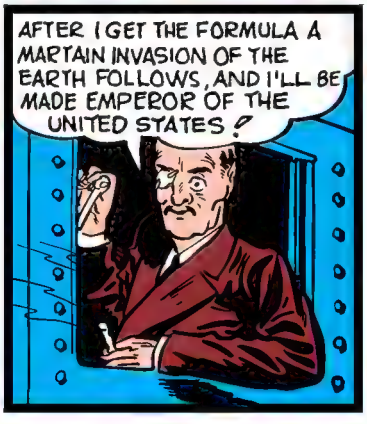

WHEN I TRIED TO TELL OUR GOVERNMENT ABOUT IT 2 YEARS AGO- AND WHEN I CONTACTED THE PLANET WITH MY SUPER-RADIO, I WAS LAUGHED AT —
-AND NOW YOU SEEK VENGEANCE IS THAT IT?

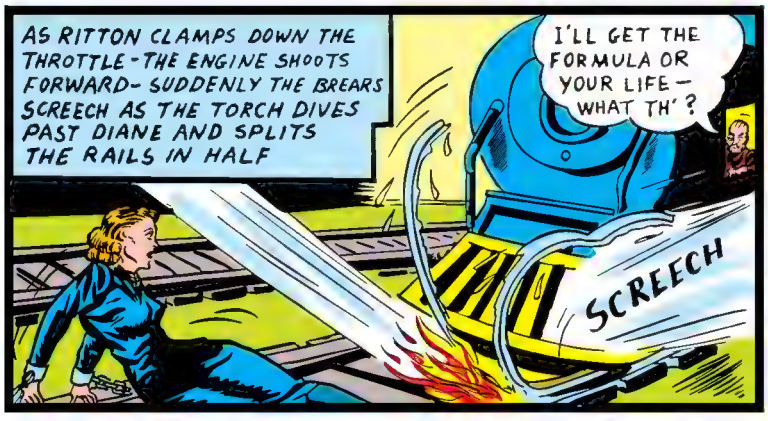

RIGHT! BY THE WAY, HERE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS —
THE TORCH! IN AN ELECTRIC CHAIR!
DIANE! SO RITTON HAS HER TOO, THE RAT!


CUTE EH? NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE FORMULA?
YOU'LL NEVER GET IT — NEVER!

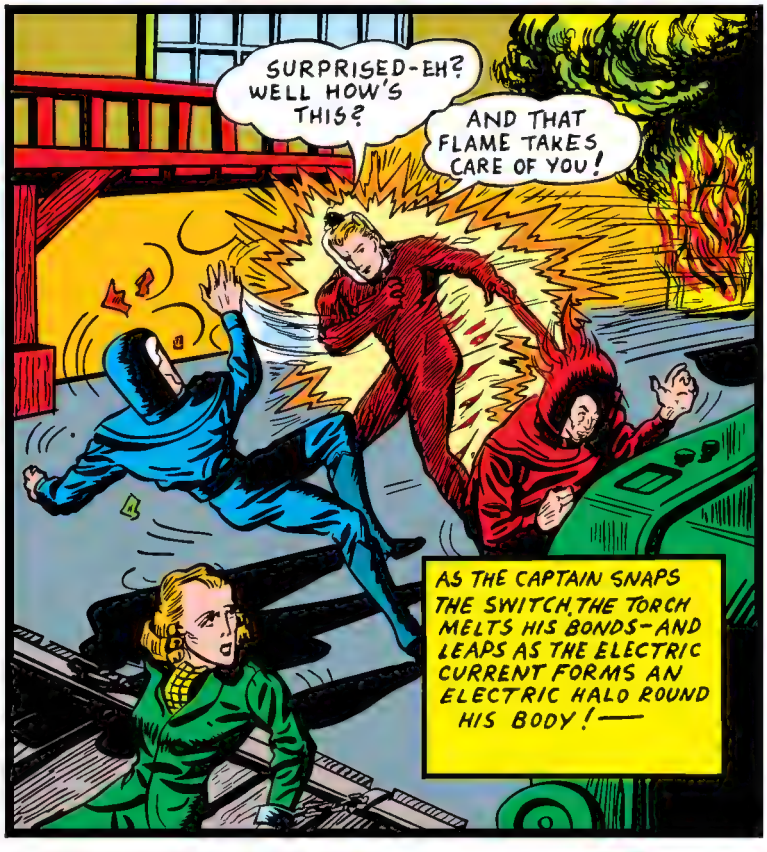

THEN, CHAIN HER TO THE RAILS CAPTAIN OTT- WE'LL EVEN LET THE TORCH SEE HOW I GET WHAT I WANT!
YOU'RE A DOG RITTON — BUT SINCE THE FORMULA MEANS MORE
11

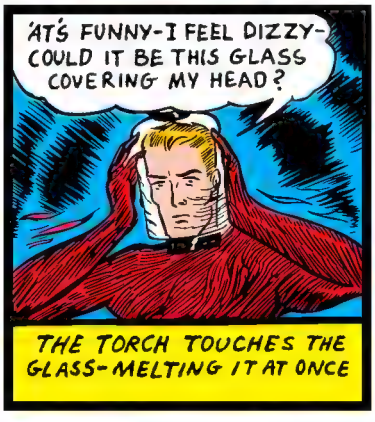

HAH! IT'S A GOOD THING YOU MARTIANS ARE POOR SCIENTISTS YOU SEE DIANE, I'VE STRUCK A BARGAIN WITH THEM!
RITTON MAKES FOR A NEAR BY LOCOMOTIVE

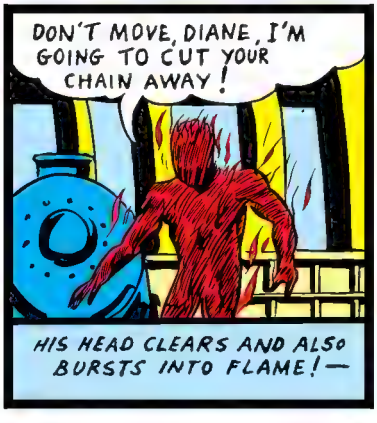

AFTER I GET THE FORMULA A MARTAIN INVASION OF THE EARTH FOLLOWS, AND I'LL BE MADE EMPEROR OF THE UNITED STATES!


AS RITTON CLAMPS DOWN THE THROTTLE-THE ENGINE SHOOTS FORWARD- SUDDENLY THE BREARS SCREECH AS THE TORCH DIVES PAST DIANE AND SPLITS THE RAILS IN HALF
I'LL GET THE FORMULA OR YOUR LIFE— WHAT TH'?
SCREECH

GOOD HEAVENS-THE TORCH! EVERY BIT OF HIS BODY IS BLAZING BUT HIS HEAD— TURN ON THE JUICE-CAP'N OTT- THAT'LL SETTLE HIS HASH


SURPRISED-EH? WELL HOW'S THIS?
AND THAT FLAME TAKES CARE OF YOU!
AS THE CAPTAIN SNAPS THE SWITCH, THE TORCH MELTS HIS BONDS-AND LEAPS AS THE ELECTRIC CURRENT FORMS AN ELECTRIC HALO ROUND HIS BODY!—

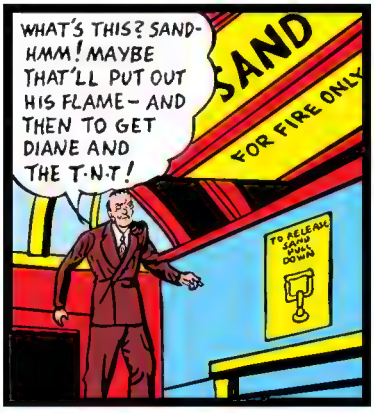

'AT'S FUNNY-I FEEL DIZZY- COULD IT BE THIS GLASS COVERING MY HEAD?
THE TORCH TOUCHES THE GLASS-MELTING IT AT ONCE


DON'T MOVE, DIANE, I'M GOING TO CUT YOUR CHAIN AWAY!
HIS HEAD CLEARS AND ALSO BURSTS INTO FLAME!—

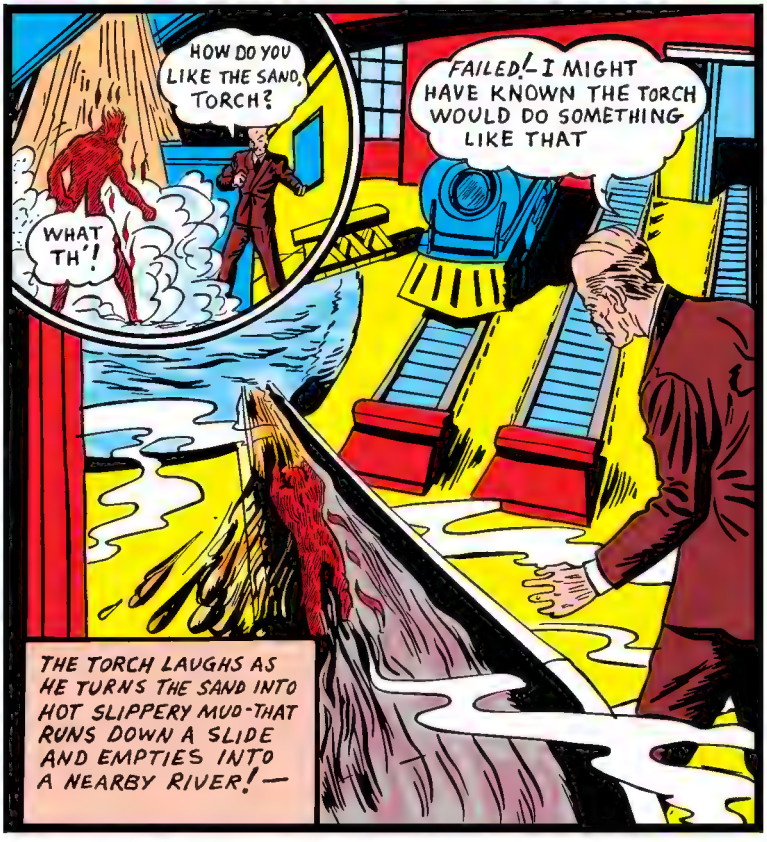
IT'S A MIRACLE-HE JUST POINTS HIS FINGER AND JUST SHOOTS FLAME-MELTING OR BURNING OBJECTS— IT'S AMAZING!

YOU OK, DIANE? GOOD- SAY— WHERE DID RITTON GO TO?
THERE HE IS!
12

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!


WHAT'S THIS? SAND- HMM! MAYBE THAT'LL PUT OUT HIS FLAME- AND THEN TO GET DIANE AND THE T-N-T!
SAND
FOR FIRE ONLY
TO RELEASE SAND PUSH DOWN

BUT THIS STREAMLINER WILL CARRY ME FAR AWAY SO THAT NOT EVEN THE TORCH WILL FIND ME!
THE STREAK

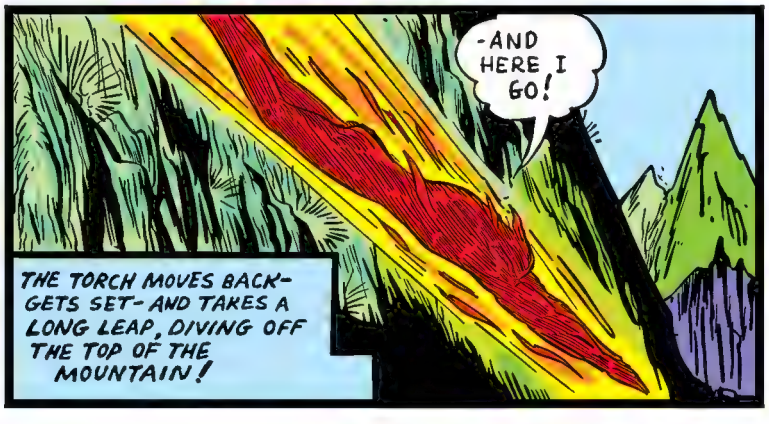

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE SAND, TORCH?
WHAT TH'!
FAILED!- I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THE TORCH WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THE TORCH LAUGHS AS HE TURNS THE SAND INTO HOT SLIPPERY MUD-THAT RUNS DOWN A SLIDE AND EMPTIES INTO A NEARBY RIVER!—

DRAT IT!- RITTON IS GETTING AWAY ON THAT TRAIN!

AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN- THE TRACKS CIRCLE THAT MOUNTAIN, BEFORE IT HITS STRAIGHT TRACK

WITH HIS FLAME GLOWING THE TORCH TAKES A MIGHTY LEAP TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!

JUST AS I THOUGHT- HERE COMES RITTON-
13

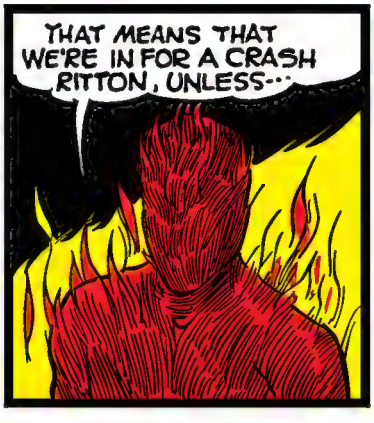

-AND HERE I GO!
THE TORCH MOVES BACK- GETS SET- AND TAKES A LONG LEAP, DIVING OFF THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!

WOW IT SURE IS HOT IN HERE!
MADE IT!
THE STREAK

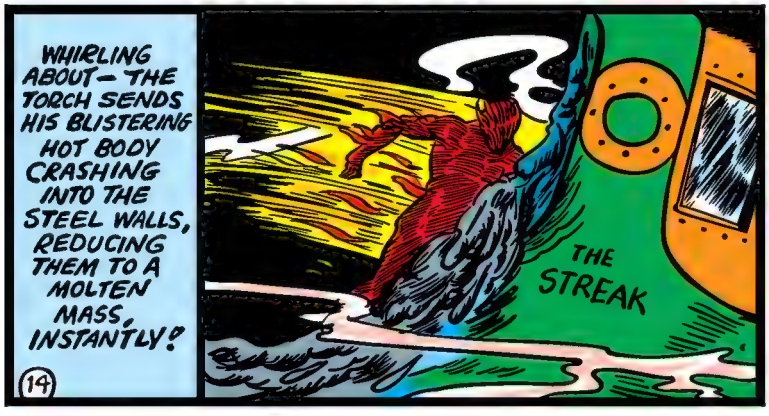
WHAT TH·· THE CEILING IS MELTING!

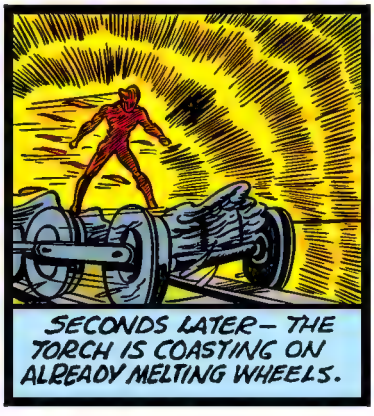
HELLO, RITTON!
THE.. TORCH!

BEFORE EITHER CAN SPEAK ANOTHER TRAIN ON THE SAME TRACK SHRIEKS OUT ITS DANGER WHISTLE


THAT MEANS THAT WE'RE IN FOR A CRASH RITTON, UNLESS···

NEVER MIND, I DON'T WANT TO BE CRUSHED!
YOU'VE ONLY ESCAPED ME, FOR A WHILE RITTON!

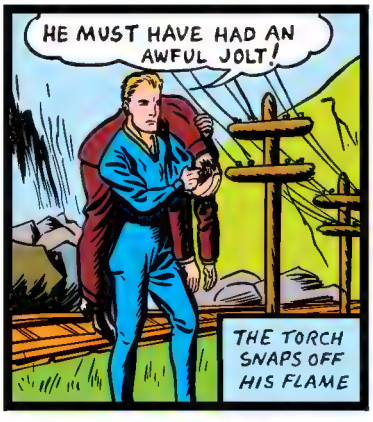

WHIRLING ABOUT— THE TORCH SENDS HIS BLISTERING HOT BODY CRASHING INTO THE STEEL WALLS, REDUCING THEM TO A MOLTEN MASS, INSTANTLY!
THE STREAK
14


SECONDS LATER— THE TORCH IS COASTING ON ALREADY MELTING WHEELS.

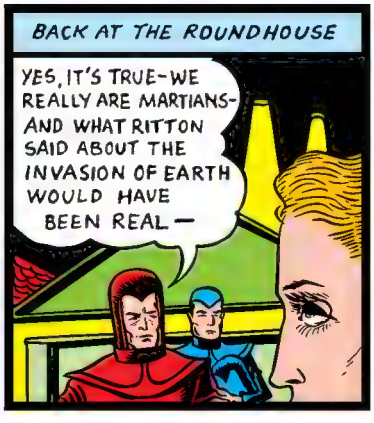
THE ENGINEER IS AMAZED, AS THE STREAMLINER EVAPORATES COMPLETELY OFF THE TRACK
-THAT'S ONE WAY TO PREVENT A TRAIN WRECK!
?

HMM- GUESS I'LL PICK UP RITTON AND HEAD BACK TO THE ROUNDHOUSE!—

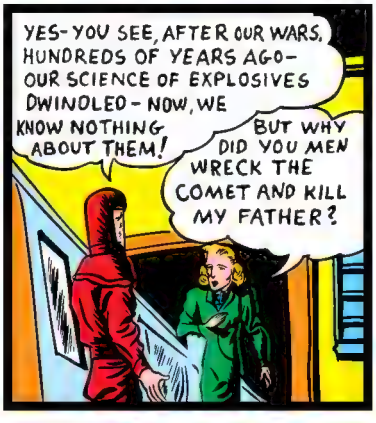
THERE HE IS— -LOOKS LIKE HE HURT HIMSELF!


HE MUST HAVE HAD AN AWFUL JOLT!
THE TORCH SNAPS OFF HIS FLAME

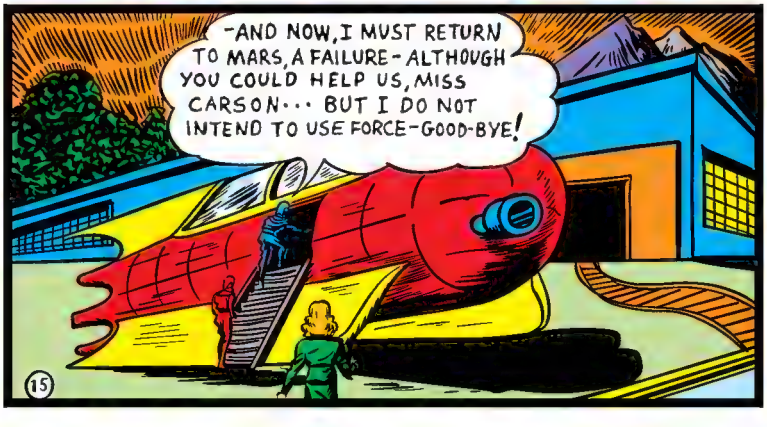
I WONDER HOW DIANE IS— HAS SHE STILL GOT THE FORMULA? I MUST GET BACK IN A HURRY!

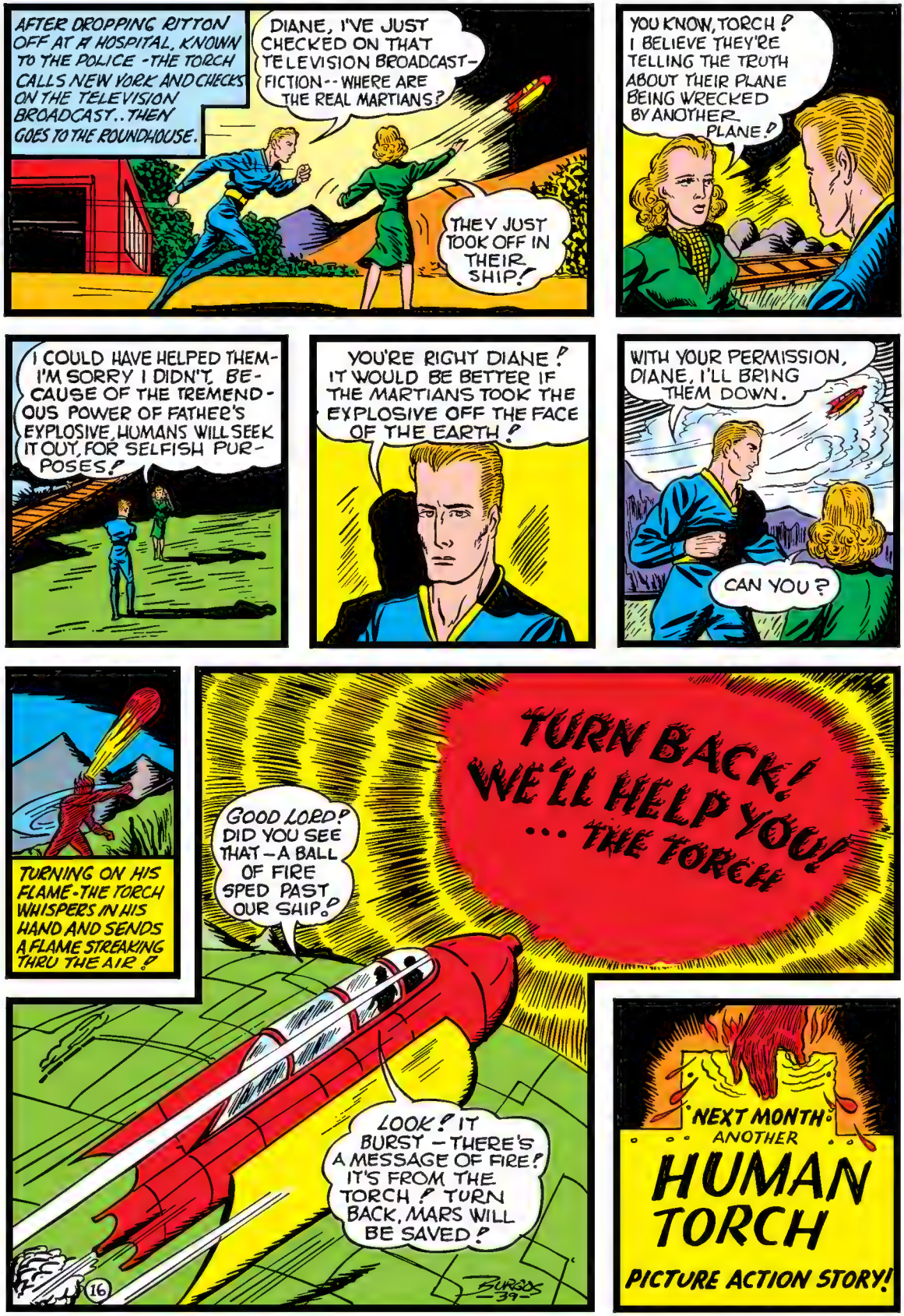

BACK AT THE ROUNDHOUSE
YES, IT'S TRUE- WE REALLY ARE MARTIANS- AND WHAT RITTON SAID ABOUT THE INVASION OF EARTH WOULD HAVE BEEN REAL—

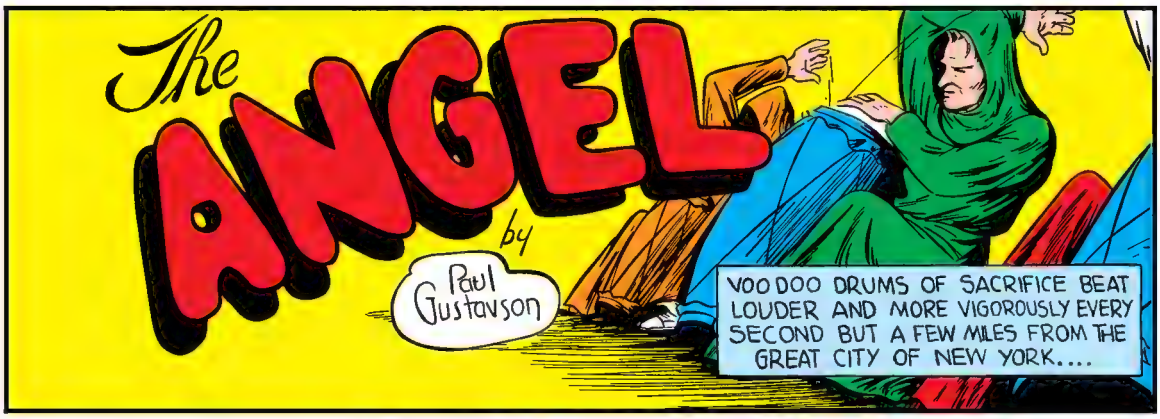
IF WE GOT THE FORMULA— RITTON WAS OUR LAST HOPE, ALTHOUGH WE REALLY HATED HIM FOR HIS THOUGHT OF BECOMING EMPEROR!
THEN IT'S TRUE THAT THE MARTIANS ARE POOR SCIENTISTS!


YES- YOU SEE, AFTER OUR WARS, HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO— OUR SCIENCE OF EXPLOSIVES DWINDLED- NOW, WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEM!
BUT WHY DID YOU MEN WRECK THE COMET AND KILL MY FATHER?

THE "GREAT ONE" FROM MARS ORDERED US TO OBEY RITTON AS IF HE WERE THE "GREAT ONE" -WE DID!- AND I DO REGRET THAT LIVES WERE LOST·· YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!—

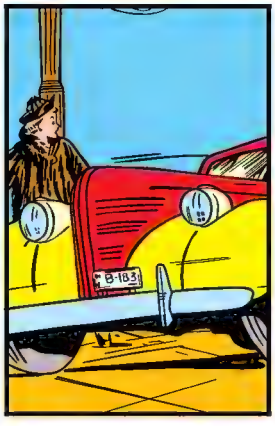

-AND NOW, I MUST RETURN TO MARS, A FAILURE- ALTHOUGH YOU COULD HELP US, MISS CARSON··· BUT I DO NOT INTEND TO USE FORCE- GOOD-BYE!
15


AFTER DROPPING RITTON OFF AT A HOSPITAL, KNOWN TO THE POLICE -THE TORCH CALLS NEW YORK AND CHECKS ON THE TELEVISION BROADCAST..THEN GOES TO THE ROUNDHOUSE.
DIANE, I'VE JUST CHECKED ON THAT TELEVISION BROADCAST-FICTION--WHERE ARE THE REAL MARTIANS?
THEY JUST TOOK OFF IN THEIR SHIP!
YOU KNOW, TORCH! I BELIEVE THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR PLANE BEING WRECKED BY ANOTHER PLANE!
I COULD HAVE HELPED THEM-I'M SORRY I DIDN'T. BECAUSE OF THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF FATHER'S EXPLOSIVE, HUMANS WILL SEEK IT OUT, FOR SELFISH PURPOSES!
YOU'RE RIGHT DIANE! IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE MARTIANS TOOK THE EXPLOSIVE OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, DIANE, I'LL BRING THEM DOWN.
CAN YOU?
TURNING ON HIS FLAME-THE TORCH WHISPERS IN HIS HAND AND SENDS A FLAME STREAKING THRU THE AIR!
GOOD LORD! DID YOU SEE THAT-A BALL OF FIRE SPED PAST OUR SHIP!
TURN BACK! WE'LL HELP YOU! ... THE TORCH
LOOK! IT BURST - THERE'S A MESSAGE OF FIRE! IT'S FROM THE TORCH! TURN BACK, MARS WILL BE SAVED!
16
BURGOS -39-
NEXT MONTH: ANOTHER HUMAN TORCH PICTURE ACTION STORY!


The ANGEL
by
Paul Gustavson
VOO DOO DRUMS OF SACRIFICE BEAT LOUDER AND MORE VIGOROUSLY EVERY SECOND BUT A FEW MILES FROM THE GREAT CITY OF NEW YORK....

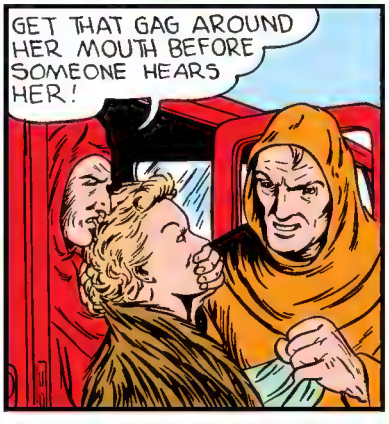
A GIRL WALKS ALONG A DARK STREET TOWARD HER HOME...

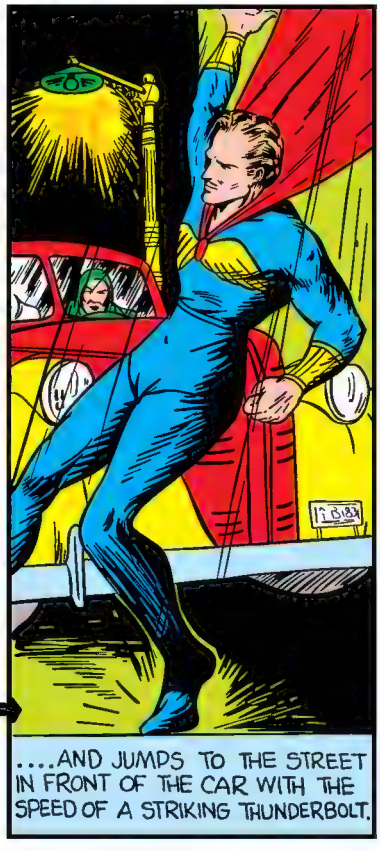
WHEN SUDDENLY A CAR DRIVES UPON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF HER

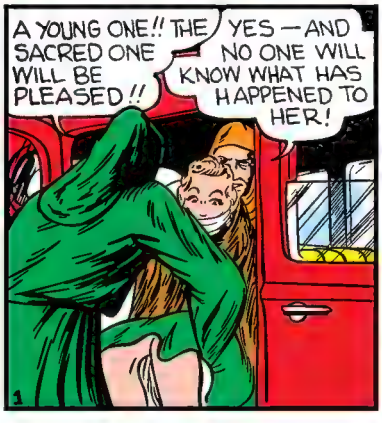


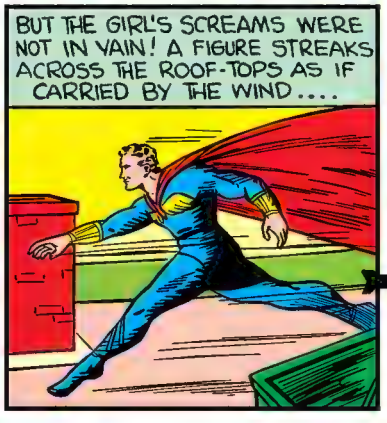
QUICKLY, SEVERAL MEN IN GOWNS AND HOODS OVER THEIR FACES JUMP OUT OF THE CAR AND SIEZE HER.

COLLECTING HERSELF FROM THE TERRIFYING SURPRISE, THE GIRL INSTANTLY SCREAMS FOR HELP.

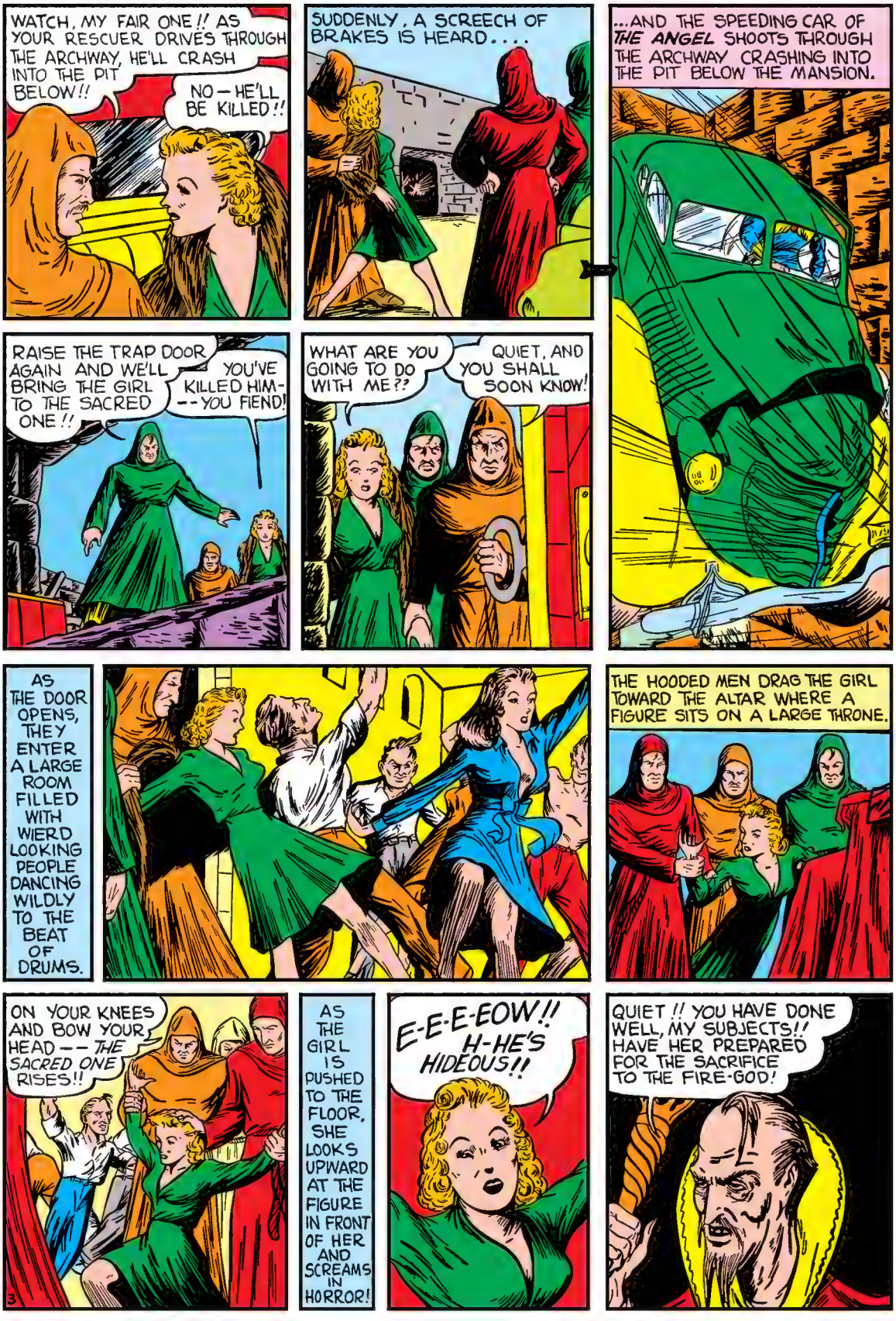

GET THAT GAG AROUND HER MOUTH BEFORE SOMEONE HEARS HER!


....AND JUMPS TO THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE CAR WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING THUNDERBOLT.

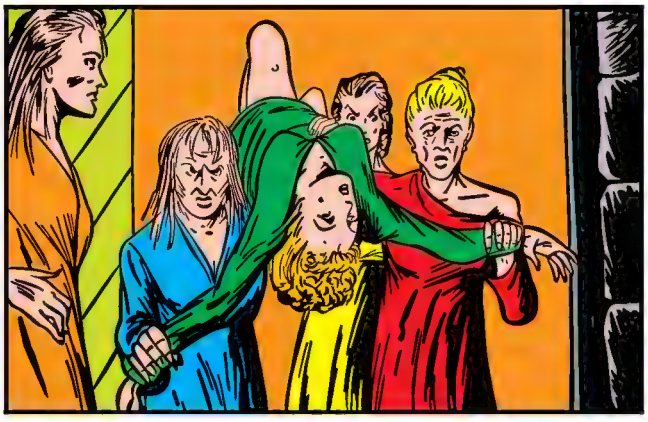

A YOUNG ONE!! THE SACRED ONE WILL BE PLEASED!!
YES — AND NO ONE WILL KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER!

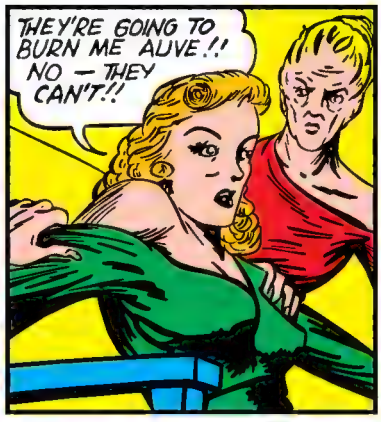

BUT THE GIRL'S SCREAMS WERE NOT IN VAIN! A FIGURE STREAKS ACROSS THE ROOF-TOPS AS IF CARRIED BY THE WIND....

INSTANTLY HE TURNS FOR THE FRONT OF THE CAR IN WHICH THE GIRL IS BEING HELD BY THE HOODED MEN !!
THE ANGEL !! RUN HIM DOWN!!
WITH THE MOTOR WIDE OPEN, THE CAR CRASHES INTO THE CHARGING MAN, KNOWN AS THE ANGEL, TOSSING HIM CLEAR ACROSS THE STREET...
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE BOTHERED BY THE ANGEL ANYMORE -- HE HASN'T STIRRED FROM WHERE HE FELL !!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, THE STUNNED ANGEL RISES TO HIS FEET AND HEADS FOR HIS CAR PARKED NEARBY.
THEY MUST HAVE HEADED NORTH, IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHERE I HEARD THE VOO-DOO DRUMS.
WHILE COVERING THE HIWAYS TO THE NORTH, THE ANGEL SEES A CAR, RESEMBLING THAT OF THE ABDUCTORS, TURN INTO AN OLD ABANDONED ROAD ....
...AND HE INSTANTLY FOLLOWS!
WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED -- -STEP ON IT!! IT'S -- IT'S THE ANGEL!
OKAY — BUT HE'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF LATER!
WITH THE ANGEL CLOSE BEHIND, THE CAR WITH THE HOODED MEN IN, TURNS OFF THE ROAD TOWARD AN OLD STONE MANSION.
AS IT PASSES UNDER THE ARCH, TO THE INNER COURT, THE DRIVER STRIKES A LEVER ...
... AND THE GROUND CAVES IN BEHIND THEM!!

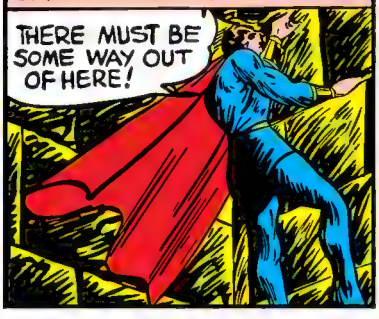

WATCH, MY FAIR ONE!! AS YOUR RESCUER DRIVES THROUGH THE ARCHWAY, HE'LL CRASH INTO THE PIT BELOW!!
NO—HE'LL BE KILLED!!
SUDDENLY, A SCREECH OF BRAKES IS HEARD....
...AND THE SPEEDING CAR OF THE ANGEL SHOOTS THROUGH THE ARCHWAY CRASHING INTO THE PIT BELOW THE MANSION.
RAISE THE TRAP DOOR AGAIN AND WE'LL BRING THE GIRL TO THE SACRED ONE!!
YOU'VE KILLED HIM--YOU FIEND!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME??
QUIET, AND YOU SHALL SOON KNOW!
AS THE DOOR OPENS, THEY ENTER A LARGE ROOM FILLED WITH WIERD LOOKING PEOPLE DANCING WILDLY TO THE BEAT OF DRUMS.
THE HOODED MEN DRAG THE GIRL TOWARD THE ALTAR WHERE A FIGURE SITS ON A LARGE THRONE.
ON YOUR KNEES AND BOW YOUR HEAD--THE SACRED ONE RISES!!
AS THE GIRL IS PUSHED TO THE FLOOR, SHE LOOKS UPWARD AT THE FIGURE IN FRONT OF HER AND SCREAMS IN HORROR!
E-E-E-EOW!! H-HE'S HIDEOUS!!
QUIET!! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY SUBJECTS!! HAVE HER PREPARED FOR THE SACRIFICE TO THE FIRE-GOD!
3

AT THAT MOMENT, SEVERAL HAGGY WOMEN SIEZE THE GIRL AND CARRY HER TO ONE OF THE ADJOINING ROOMS . . .

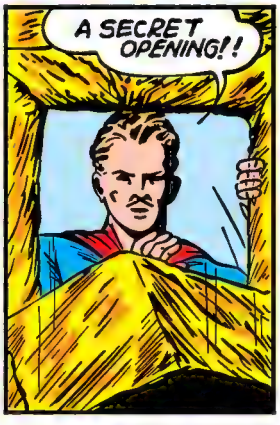


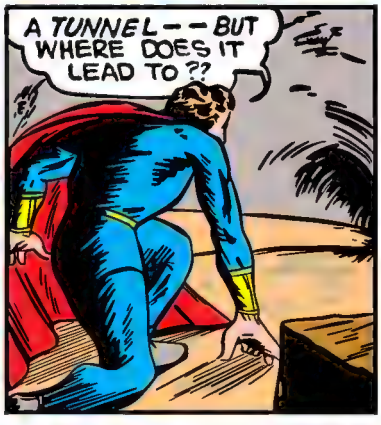


MEANWHILE, WE TURN TO THE PIT INTO WHICH *THE ANGEL* CRASHED. A FIGURE CLINGS TO THE WET, SLIPPERY WALL . . . . *THE ANGEL!*



AS *THE ANGEL* PUSHES ONE OF THE STONES . . . . .

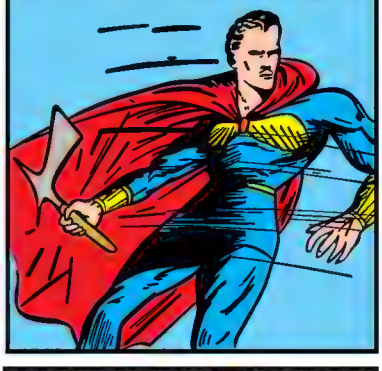




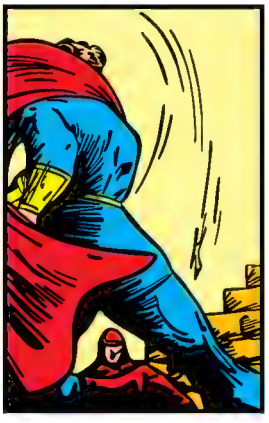
RUNNING THROUGH THE TUNNEL AS FAST AS HE CAN, *THE ANGEL* COMES INTO A LARGE ROOM WHERE HE IS MET BY A HOODED FIGURE.

INSTANTLY, THE HOODED FIGURE THROWS A HATCHET . . . .

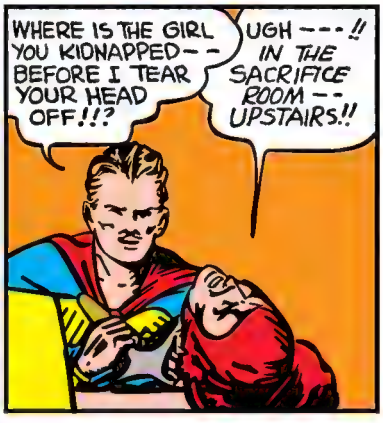
BUT *THE ANGEL* STEPS ASIDE QUICKLY AND GRABS IT IN MID-AIR.

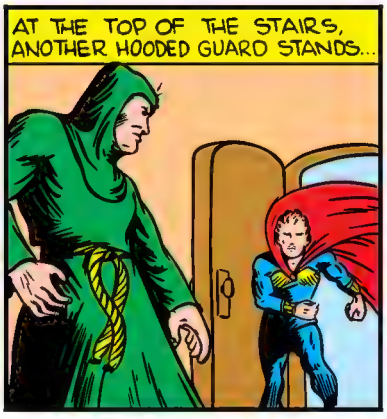


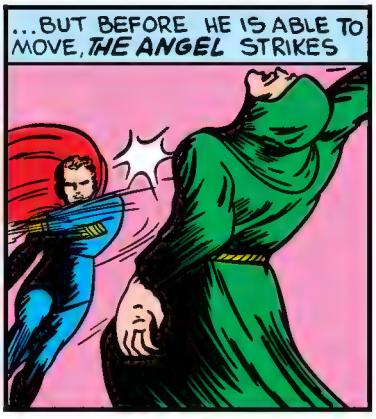
LIKE A DART, HE SENDS IT STREAK-ING BACK TO THE HOODED FIGURE



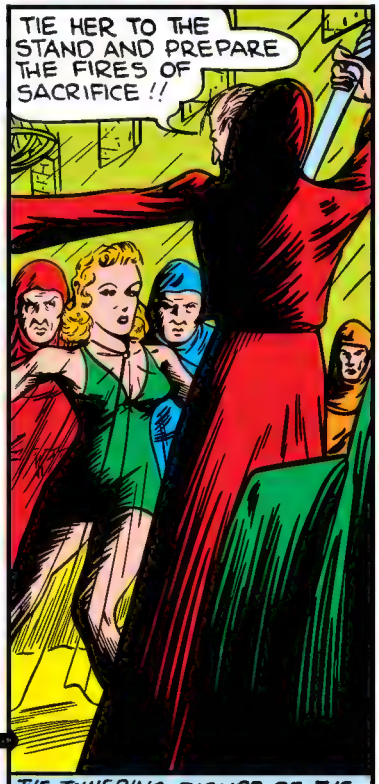
PINNING HIM TO THE STONE WALL.

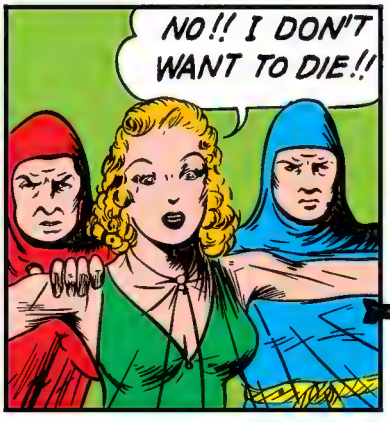




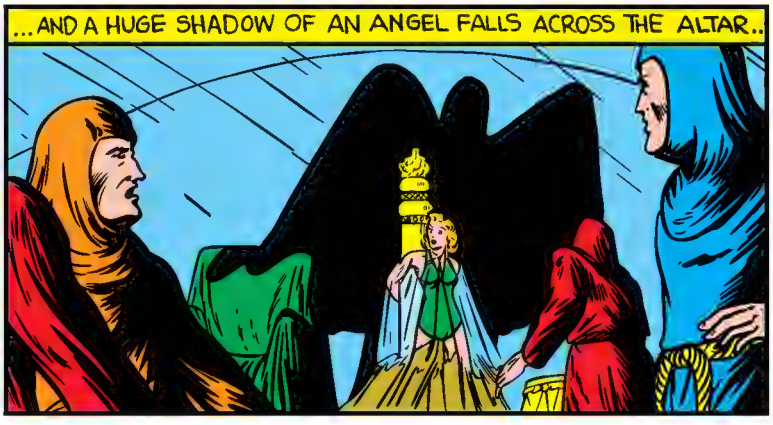


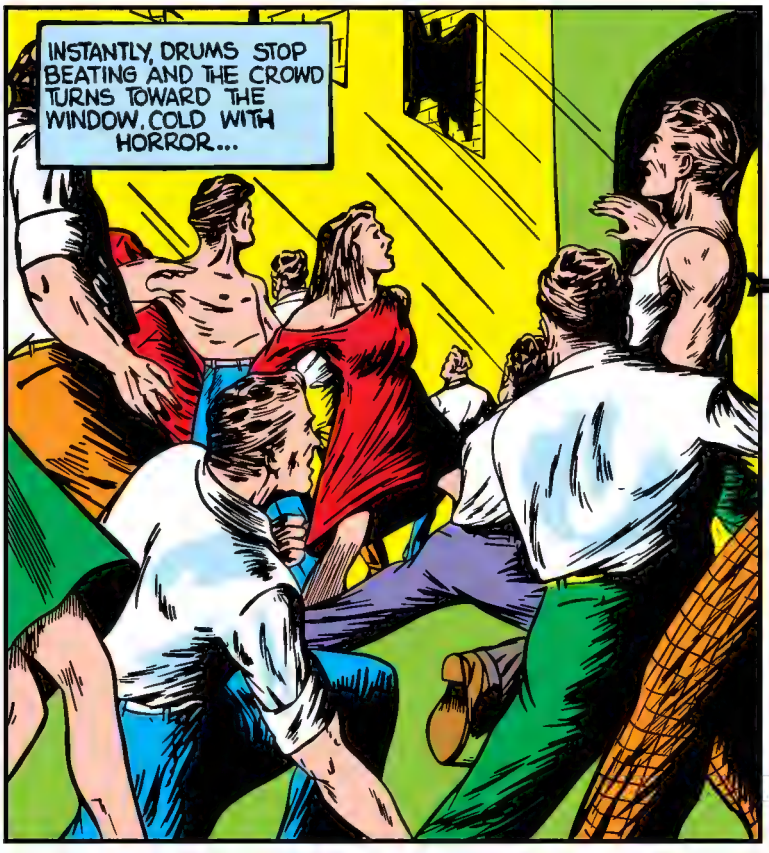
IN A FLASH, THE ANGEL IS OUTSIDE AND CLIMBING UP THE IVY TO THE WINDOWS OF THE SACRIFICE ROOM





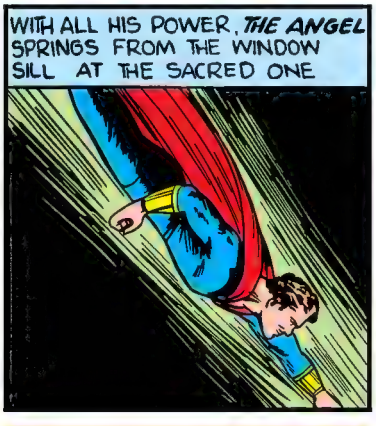
AS THE MEN ARE ABOUT TO TIE THE GIRL TO THE STAND A COLD WIND BLOWS IN FROM THE WINDOWS ABOVE

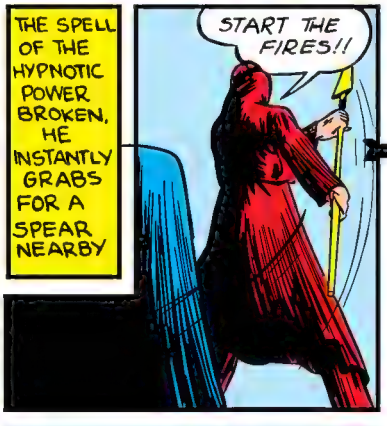


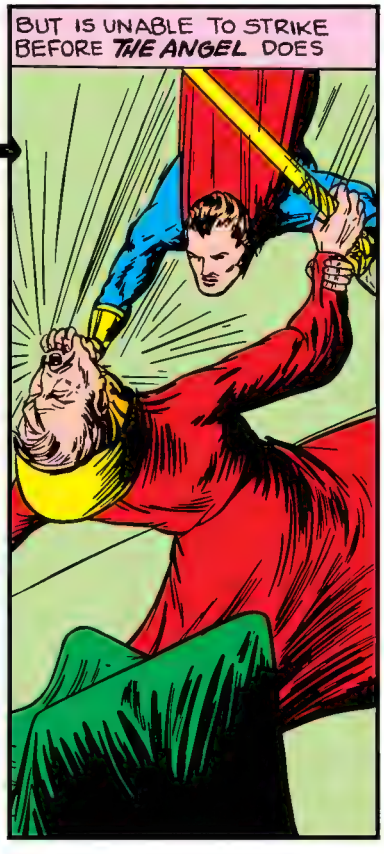

INSTANTLY, DRUMS STOP BEATING AND THE CROWD TURNS TOWARD THE WINDOW, COLD WITH HORROR...

BUT THE FIGURE ON THE ALTAR SEES THAT THE ANGEL IS HUMAN AND HIS BURNING EYES TURN UPWARD.

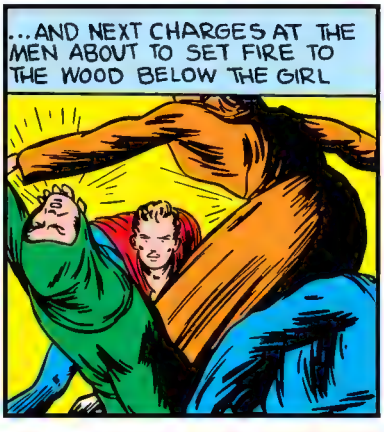
HIS EYES -- A HYPNOTIST!! MY STRENGTH IS LEAVING ME - - !! I'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST!


WITH ALL HIS POWER, THE ANGEL SPRINGS FROM THE WINDOW SILL AT THE SACRED ONE

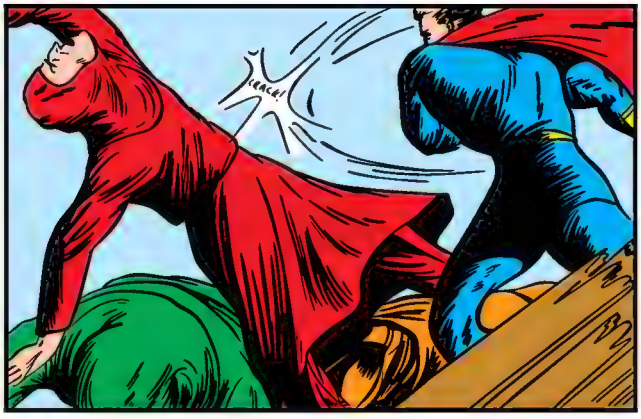

THE SPELL OF THE HYPNOTIC POWER BROKEN, HE INSTANTLY GRABS FOR A SPEAR NEARBY
START THE FIRES!!


BUT IS UNABLE TO STRIKE BEFORE THE ANGEL DOES

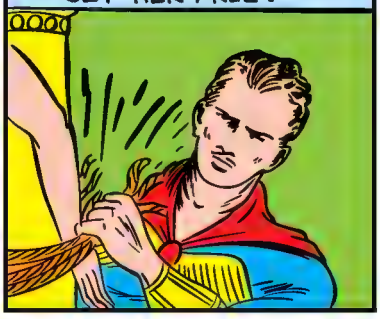
PICKING HIM UP, THE ANGEL HURLS THE SACRED ONE CLEAR ACROSS THE ALTAR...


...AND NEXT CHARGES AT THE MEN ABOUT TO SET FIRE TO THE WOOD BELOW THE GIRL

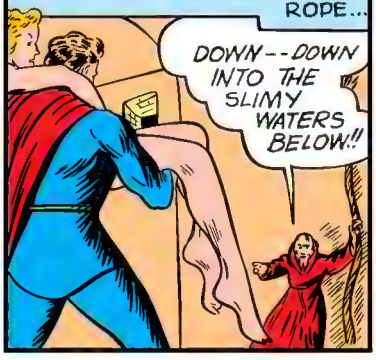
THE ANGEL SENDS THE MEN SPRAWLING LEFT AND RIGHT AS HE CRASHES INTO THEM . . . .



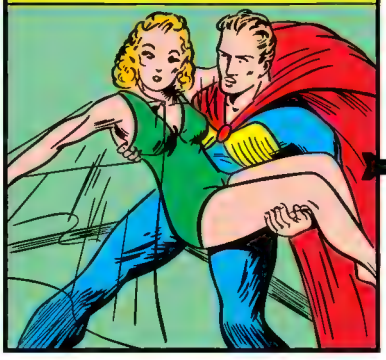
POWERFUL HANDS QUICKLY GRASP THE BONDS HOLDING THE GIRL AND IN A SPLIT SECOND SET HER FREE.



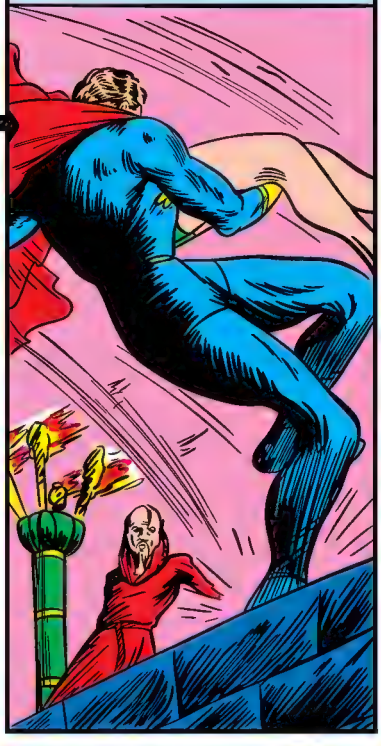
AS THE ANGEL PICKS UP THE GIRL, THE SACRED ONE PULLS A ROPE...



...AND THE FLOOR DROPS BELOW THEM.

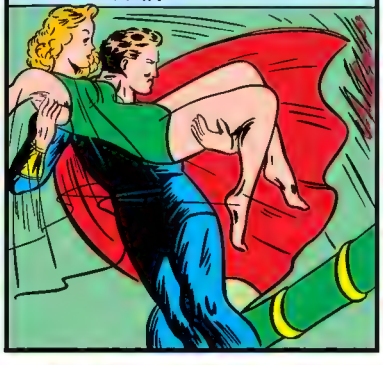


IN A DESPERATE LEAP, THE ANGEL CLEARS THE GAP TO THE SIDE WHERE THE SACRED ONE IS.

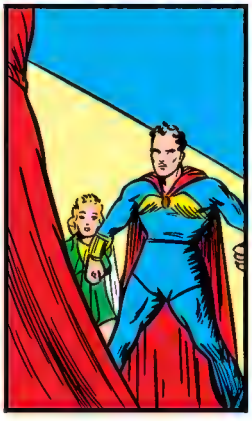


INSTANTLY, THE SACRED ONE HURLS A TORCH STAND.

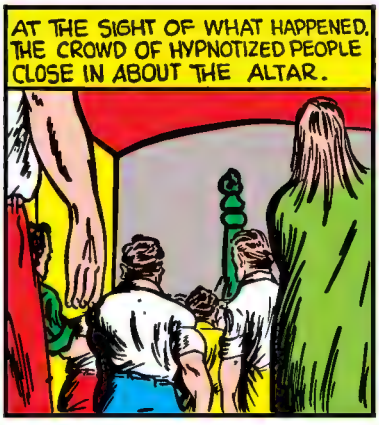
A MOMENT LATE!! THE ANGEL SPRINGS ASIDE.

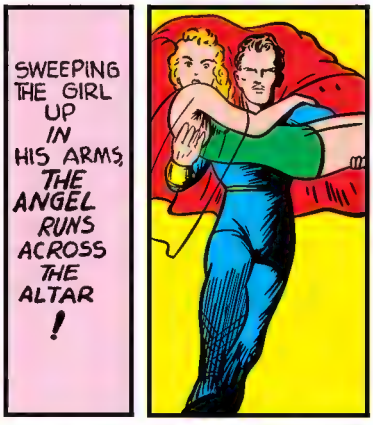


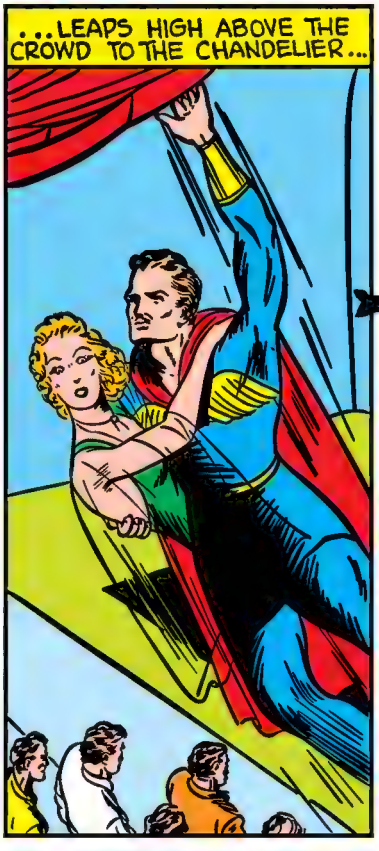
PLACING THE GIRL DOWN IN A SAFE SPOT, THE ANGEL TURNS TOWARD THE TOWERING FIGURE . . . .

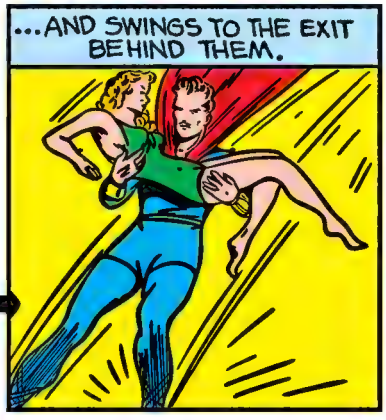


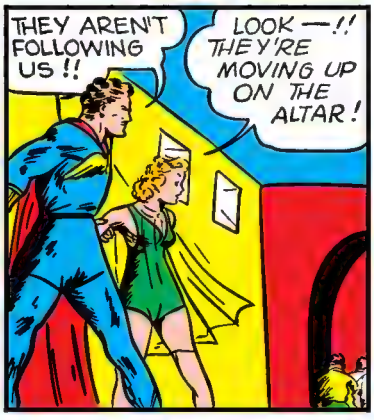
IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE, THE SACRED ONE RUNS DIRECTLY INTO THE GAP LEFT BY THE TRAP-DOOR

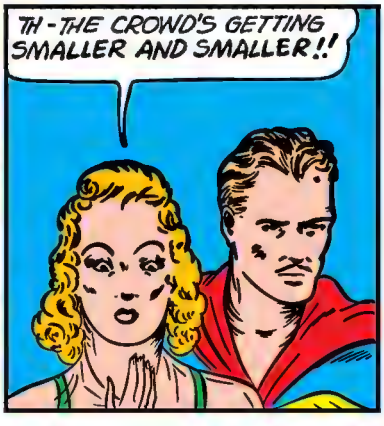


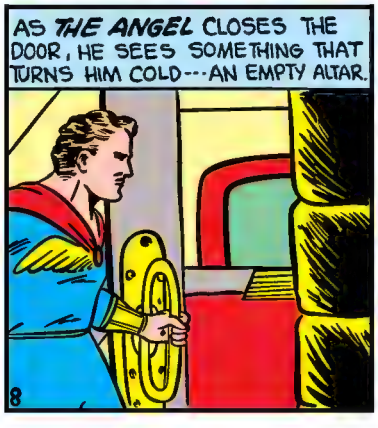


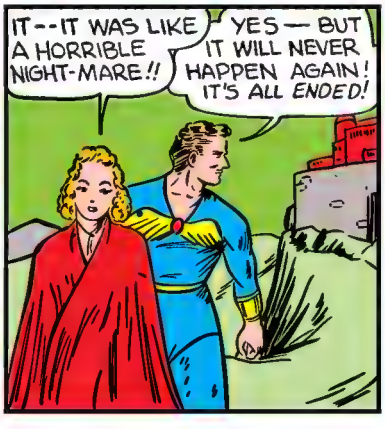












Don't miss THE NEXT THRILLING EPISODE of "THE ANGEL" IN THE NEXT ISSUE

PRINCE NAMOR the SUB-MARINER

By Bill Everett

THE SUB-MARINER, AMPHIBIOUS DEMON OF THE EARTH, BENT ON AN INSPIRED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WHITE MAN-MAINLY AMERICAN-WHO HAS ALL BUT OBLITERATED HIS SOUTH ANTARCTIC RACE ~REVENGE IS HIS MOTIVE AND EVIL IS HIS INTENT~ ~HE HAS COME TO THE UNITED STATES ON A SCOUTING EXPEDITION, TO MAP OUT AN EXTENSIVE MILITARY INVASION BY HIS OWN ARMY OF SUB-MARINERS!

HE IS NOW SOMEWHERE UNDER-WATER IN OR AROUND NEW YORK HARBOR. WHEN LAST SEEN, HE WAS STRUGGLING BELOW THE SURFACE WITH TWO VALIANT CITY POLICEMEN, ONE OF WHOM HE SUCCEEDED IN DROWNING ~
HE ESCAPED, AND NOW....

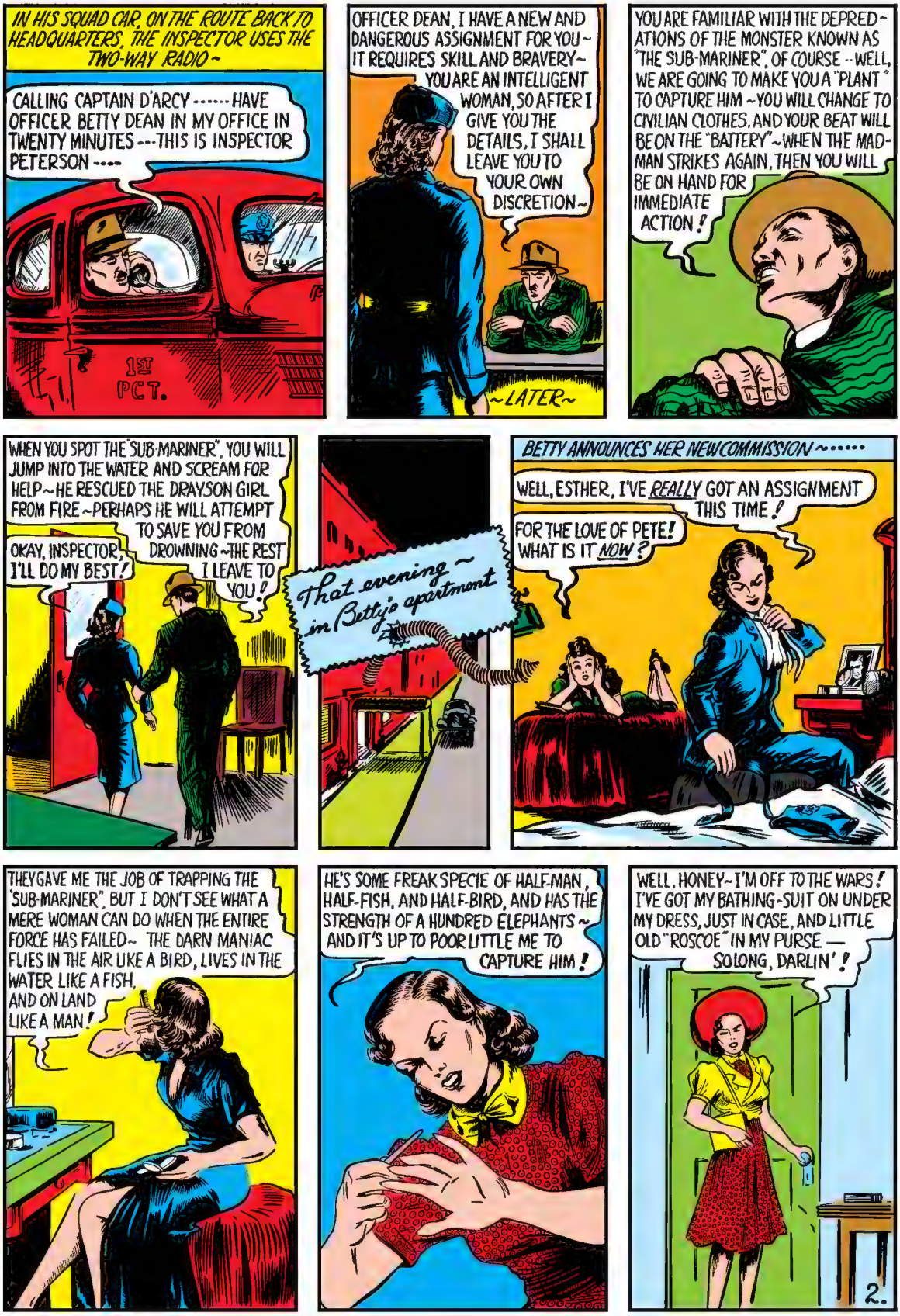
IN THE OFFICES OF THE HARBOR POLICE:

INSPECTOR, WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING TO STOP THIS MADMAN, AND HAVE GOTTEN ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE!

I KNOW, CHIEF ~ WE'VE BLOCKADED BOTH THE HUDSON AND EAST RIVERS - BUT WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

LOOK, INSPECTOR - THIS LUNATIC SEEMED TO BE ATTRACTED TO THE DRAYSON GIRL, AND KIDNAPPED HER ~ WHY COULDN'T WE SET A TRAP FOR HIM WITH ONE OF YOUR YOUNG POLICE-WOMEN?

A GREAT IDEA, CHIEF! WE'LL USE BETTY DEAN ~ SHE'S AN EXPERT SWIMMER, EASY ON THE EYES, AND A DARN GOOD COP!


IN HIS SQUAD CAR, ON THE ROUTE BACK TO HEADQUARTERS, THE INSPECTOR USES THE TWO-WAY RADIO ~
CALLING CAPTAIN D'ARCY ------ HAVE OFFICER BETTY DEAN IN MY OFFICE IN TWENTY MINUTES ---THIS IS INSPECTOR PETERSON ----
1ST PCT.
OFFICER DEAN, I HAVE A NEW AND DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU ~ IT REQUIRES SKILL AND BRAVERY ~ YOU ARE AN INTELLIGENT WOMAN, SO AFTER I GIVE YOU THE DETAILS, I SHALL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR OWN DISCRETION ~
~LATER~
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE DEPREDATIONS OF THE MONSTER KNOWN AS "THE SUB-MARINER", OF COURSE -- WELL, WE ARE GOING TO MAKE YOU A "PLANT" TO CAPTURE HIM ~ YOU WILL CHANGE TO CIVILIAN CLOTHES, AND YOUR BEAT WILL BE ON THE "BATTERY" ~ WHEN THE MADMAN STRIKES AGAIN, THEN YOU WILL BE ON HAND FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION!
WHEN YOU SPOT THE "SUB-MARINER", YOU WILL JUMP INTO THE WATER AND SCREAM FOR HELP ~ HE RESCUED THE DRAYSON GIRL FROM FIRE ~ PERHAPS HE WILL ATTEMPT TO SAVE YOU FROM DROWNING ~ THE REST I LEAVE TO YOU!
OKAY, INSPECTOR, I'LL DO MY BEST!
That evening ~ in Betty's apartment
BETTY ANNOUNCES HER NEW COMMISSION ~ .....
WELL, ESTHER, I'VE REALLY GOT AN ASSIGNMENT THIS TIME!
FOR THE LOVE OF PETE! WHAT IS IT NOW?
THEY GAVE ME THE JOB OF TRAPPING THE "SUB-MARINER", BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT A MERE WOMAN CAN DO WHEN THE ENTIRE FORCE HAS FAILED ~ THE DARN MANIAC FLIES IN THE AIR LIKE A BIRD, LIVES IN THE WATER LIKE A FISH, AND ON LAND LIKE A MAN!
HE'S SOME FREAK SPECIE OF HALF-MAN, HALF-FISH, AND HALF-BIRD, AND HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED ELEPHANTS ~ AND IT'S UP TO POOR LITTLE ME TO CAPTURE HIM!
WELL, HONEY ~ I'M OFF TO THE WARS! I'VE GOT MY BATHING-SUIT ON UNDER MY DRESS, JUST IN CASE, AND LITTLE OLD "ROSCOE" IN MY PURSE — SO LONG, DARLIN'!
2.

A WEEK HAS GONE BY, AND BETTY MAINTAINS HER VIGIL WITHOUT EVEN A GLIMPSE OF THE SUB-MARINER....

LOOKS SORT OF HOPELESS TO ME! MAYBE HE'S GONE BACK TO WHEREVER HE CAME FROM....

BUT BETTY'S SHARP EYES FAIL TO NOTE THE ARRIVAL OF THE SUB-MARINER LIFTING HIS HEAD ABOVE THE SURFACE 100 YARDS FROM THE BATTERY SHORE....

PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER, SKIMS THE WATER LIKE LIGHTNING, AND HEADS FOR BROOKLYN BRIDGE!

SUDDENLY BETTY FREEZES AS SHE SEES THE SPRAY ON THE WATER!

OH OH! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT!

DEFTLY SHE STRIPS OFF THE LIGHT DRESS, AND, CLAD IN A BATHING-SUIT, DIVES OFF THE WALL!

HELP!

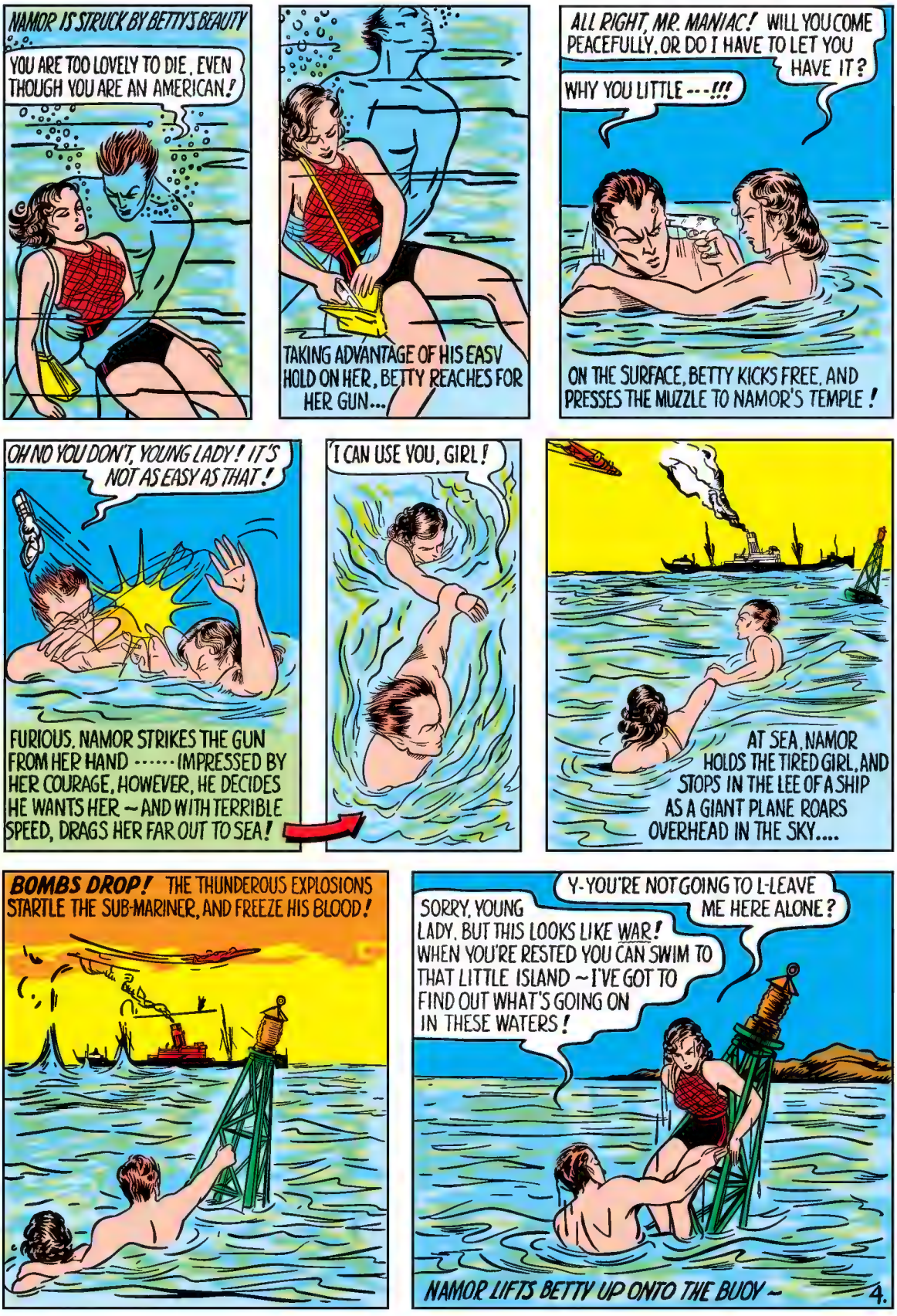
BY THE GREAT SHARK! A SWIMMER---- IN TROUBLE! SHALL I....?

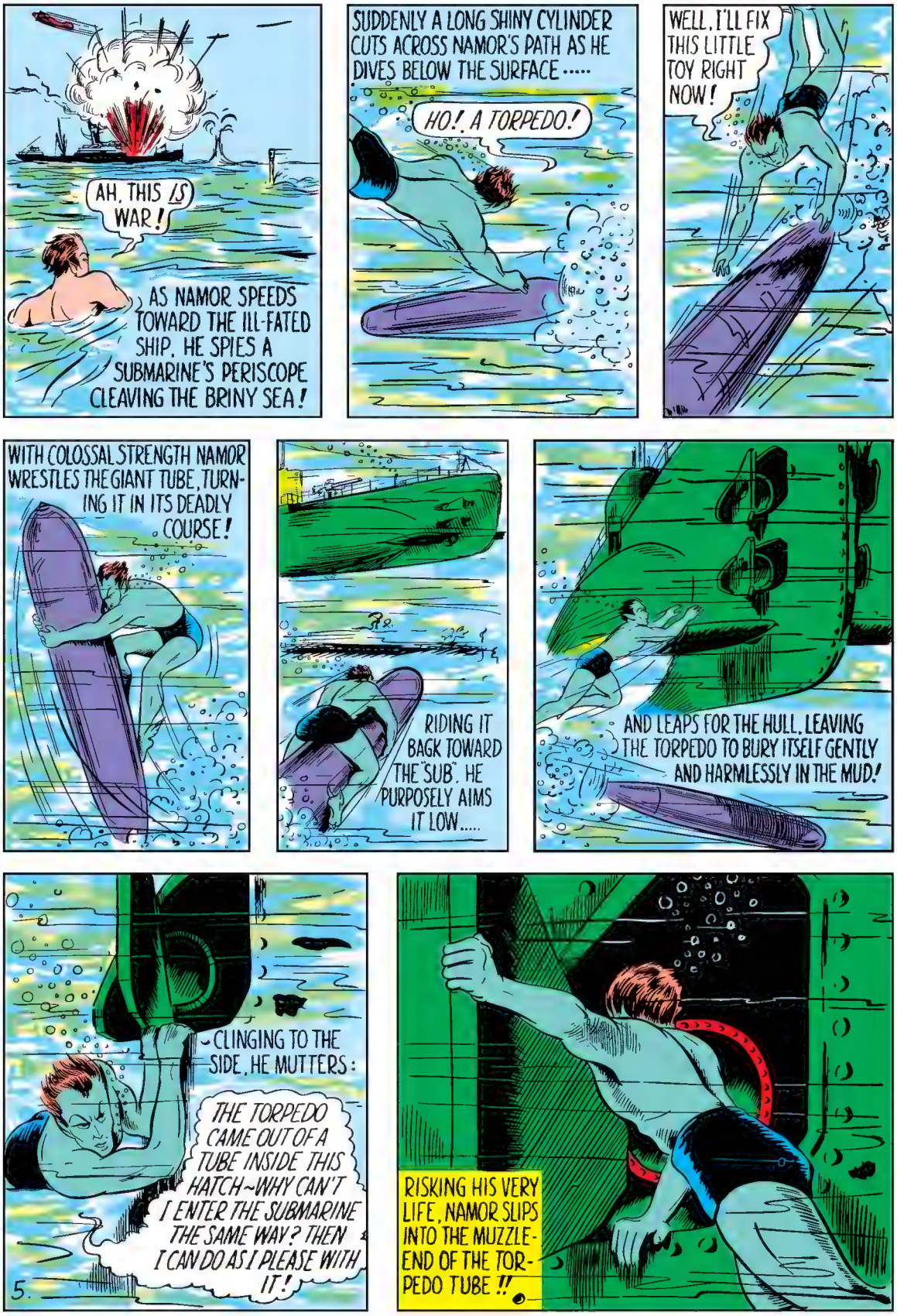
NAMOR STOPS ABRUPTLY, AND WHEELS AROUND FACING BETTY

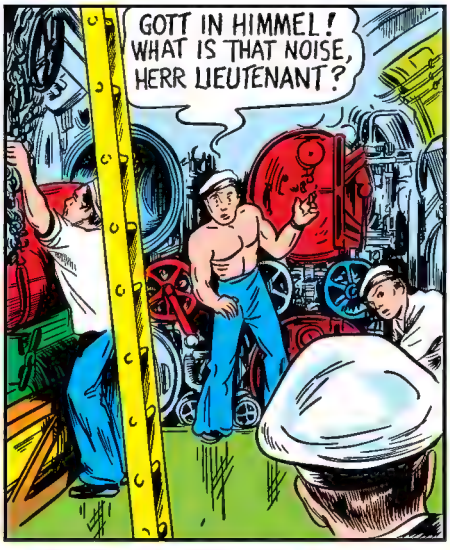
HESITATING BUT A MOMENT, NAMOR, FOR NO APPARENT REASON, STREAKS THROUGH THE WATER TO HELP HER!

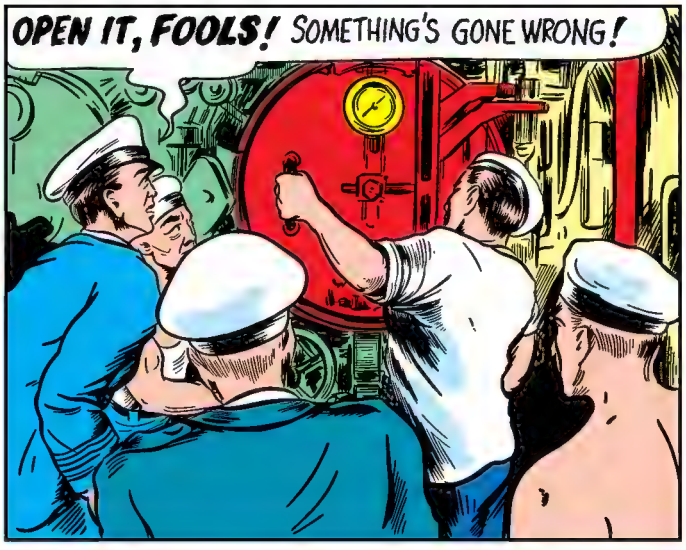
GOOD! IT'S WORKING SO FAR~ BUT WHAT NOW?

BETTY FEIGNS UNCONSCIOUSNESS, AND ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE TAKEN BY THE INFAMOUS SUBMARINER!

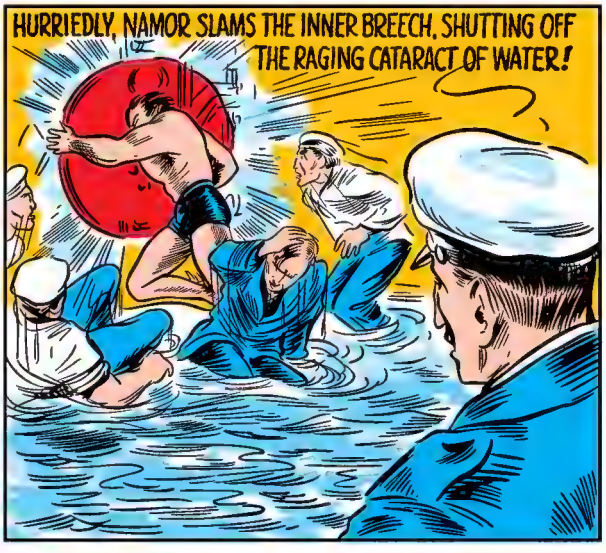

NAMOR IS STRUCK BY BETTY'S BEAUTY
YOU ARE TOO LOVELY TO DIE, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE AN AMERICAN!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS EASY HOLD ON HER, BETTY REACHES FOR HER GUN...
ALL RIGHT, MR. MANIAC! WILL YOU COME PEACEFULLY, OR DO I HAVE TO LET YOU HAVE IT?
WHY YOU LITTLE---!!!
ON THE SURFACE, BETTY KICKS FREE, AND PRESSES THE MUZZLE TO NAMOR'S TEMPLE!
OH NO YOU DON'T, YOUNG LADY! IT'S NOT AS EASY AS THAT!
FURIOUS, NAMOR STRIKES THE GUN FROM HER HAND ..... IMPRESSED BY HER COURAGE, HOWEVER, HE DECIDES HE WANTS HER - AND WITH TERRIBLE SPEED, DRAGS HER FAR OUT TO SEA!
I CAN USE YOU, GIRL!
AT SEA, NAMOR HOLDS THE TIRED GIRL, AND STOPS IN THE LEE OF A SHIP AS A GIANT PLANE ROARS OVERHEAD IN THE SKY....
BOMBS DROP! THE THUNDEROUS EXPLOSIONS STARTLE THE SUB-MARINER, AND FREEZE HIS BLOOD!
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO L-LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?
SORRY, YOUNG LADY, BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE WAR! WHEN YOU'RE RESTED YOU CAN SWIM TO THAT LITTLE ISLAND - I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THESE WATERS!
NAMOR LIFTS BETTY UP ONTO THE BUOY -
4.


AH, THIS IS WAR!
AS NAMOR SPEEDS TOWARD THE ILL-FATED SHIP, HE SPIES A SUBMARINE'S PERISCOPE CLEAVING THE BRINY SEA!
SUDDENLY A LONG SHINY CYLINDER CUTS ACROSS NAMOR'S PATH AS HE DIVES BELOW THE SURFACE.....
HO!. A TORPEDO!
WELL, I'LL FIX THIS LITTLE TOY RIGHT NOW!
WITH COLOSSAL STRENGTH NAMOR WRESTLES THE GIANT TUBE, TURNING IT IN ITS DEADLY COURSE!
RIDING IT BAGK TOWARD THE "SUB". HE PURPOSELY AIMS IT LOW.....
AND LEAPS FOR THE HULL, LEAVING THE TORPEDO TO BURY ITSELF GENTLY AND HARMLESSLY IN THE MUD!
CLINGING TO THE SIDE, HE MUTTERS:
THE TORPEDO CAME OUT OF A TUBE INSIDE THIS HATCH~WHY CAN'T I ENTER THE SUBMARINE THE SAME WAY? THEN I CAN DO AS I PLEASE WITH IT!
5.
RISKING HIS VERY LIFE, NAMOR SLIPS INTO THE MUZZLE-END OF THE TORPEDO TUBE !!

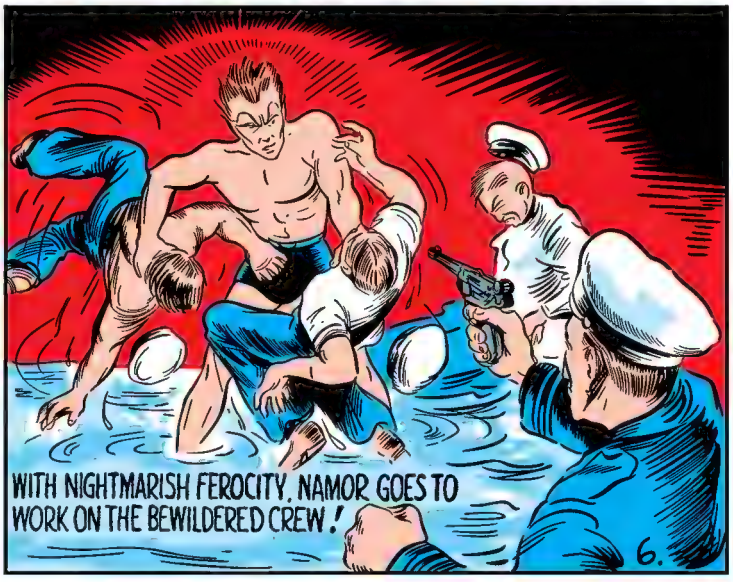

GOTT IN HIMMEL! WHAT IS THAT NOISE, HERR LIEUTENANT?

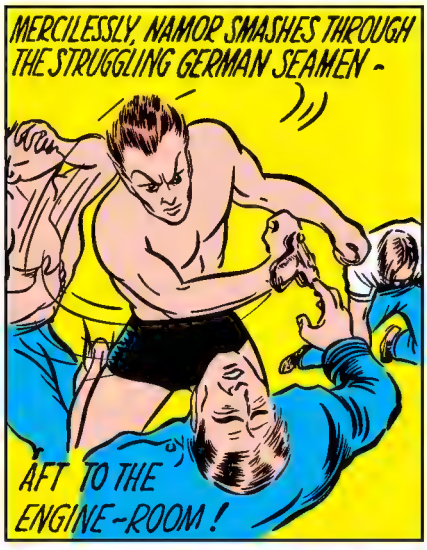

OPEN IT, FOOLS! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!

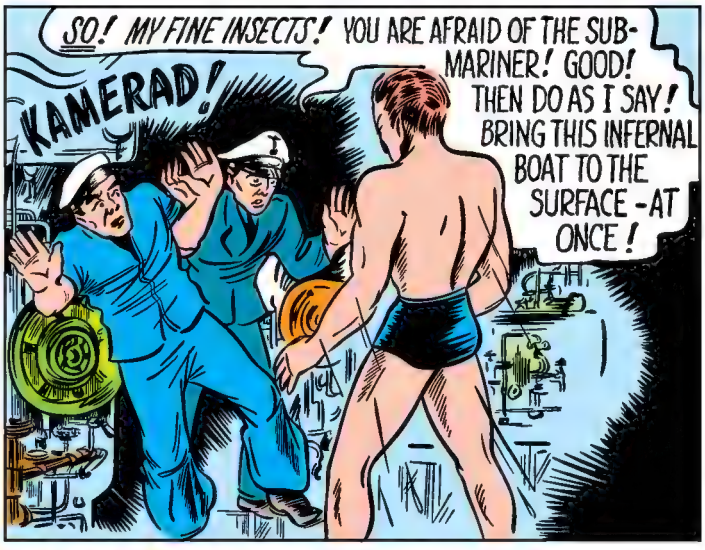
ENTER, THE SUBMARINER!

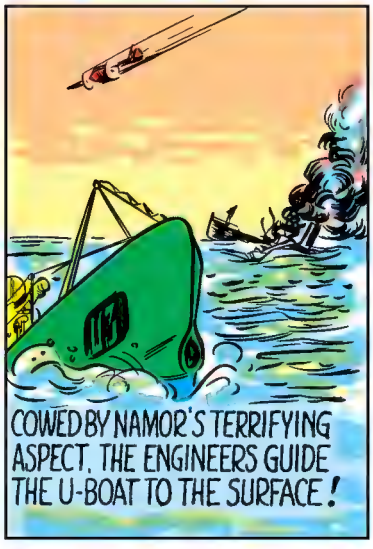

HURRIEDLY, NAMOR SLAMS THE INNER BREECH, SHUTTING OFF THE RAGING CATARACT OF WATER!

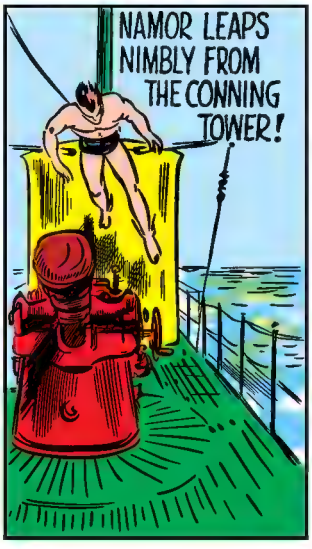
GET THAT MAN!

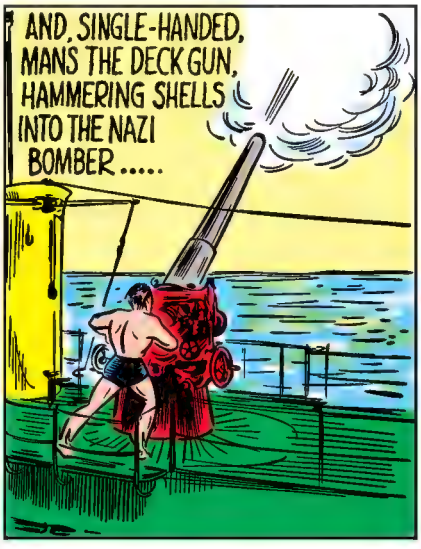

WITH NIGHTMARISH FEROCITY, NAMOR GOES TO WORK ON THE BEWILDERED CREW!
6.

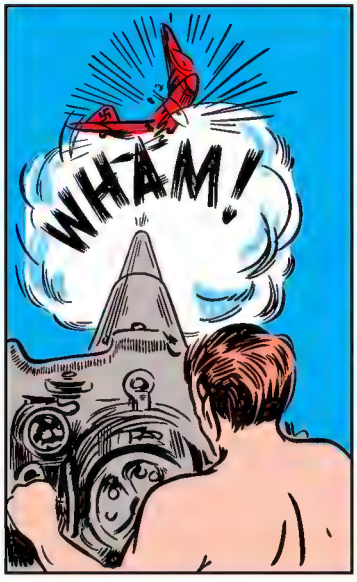

MERCILESSLY, NAMOR SMASHES THROUGH THE STRUGGLING GERMAN SEAMEN -
AFT TO THE ENGINE-ROOM!

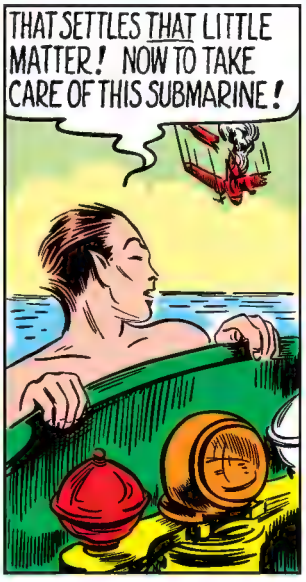

SO! MY FINE INSECTS! YOU ARE AFRAID OF THE SUB-MARINER! GOOD! THEN DO AS I SAY! BRING THIS INFERNAL BOAT TO THE SURFACE - AT ONCE!
KAMERAD!

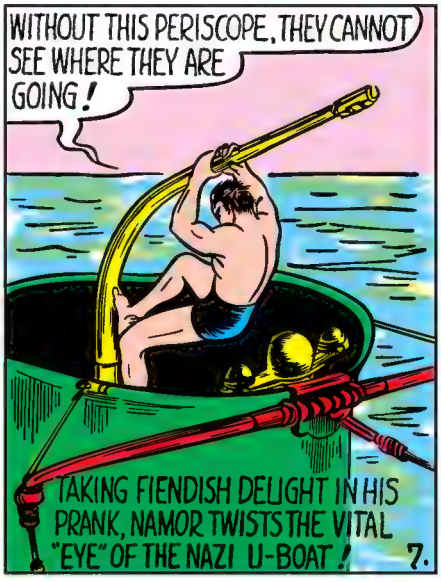

COWED BY NAMOR'S TERRIFYING ASPECT, THE ENGINEERS GUIDE THE U-BOAT TO THE SURFACE!

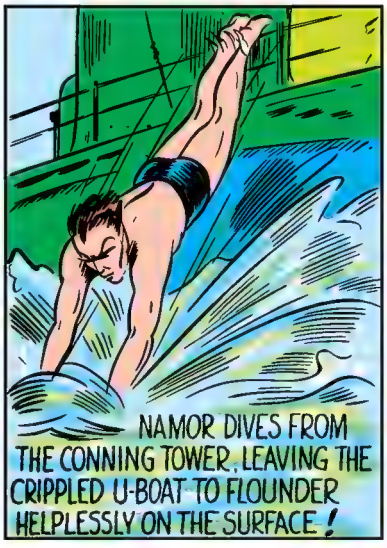

NAMOR LEAPS NIMBLY FROM THE CONNING TOWER!

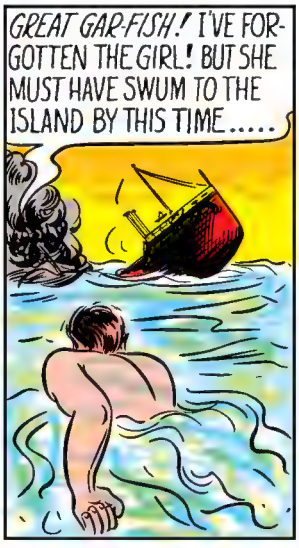

AND, SINGLE-HANDED, MANS THE DECK GUN, HAMMERING SHELLS INTO THE NAZI BOMBER.....

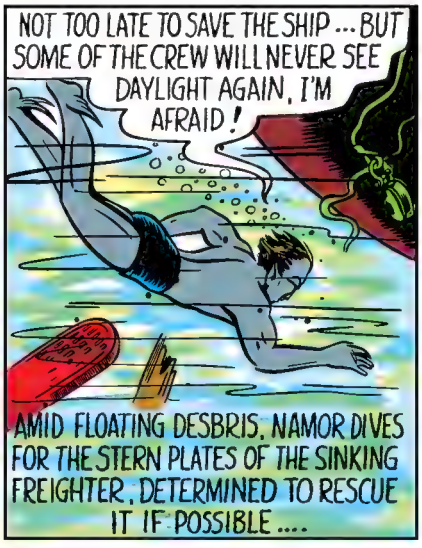

WHAM!

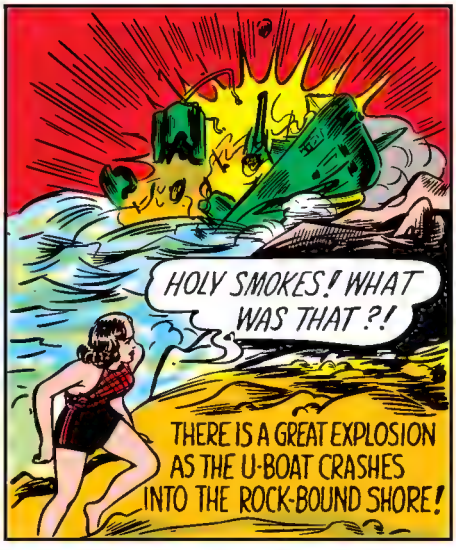

THAT SETTLES THAT LITTLE MATTER! NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THIS SUBMARINE!

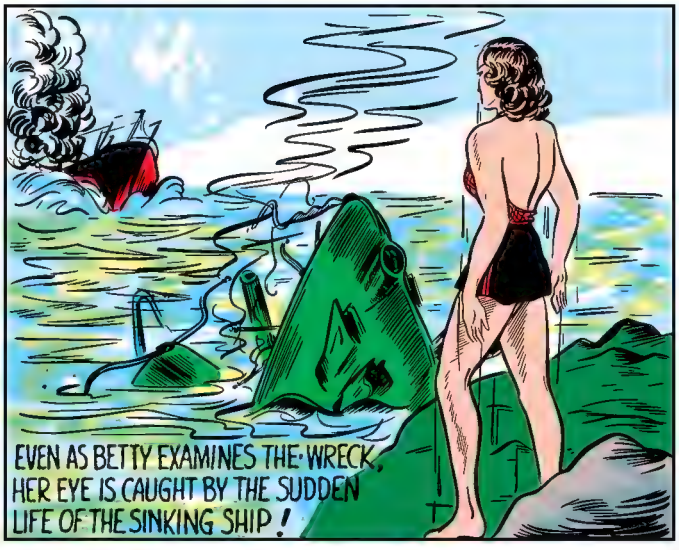

WITHOUT THIS PERISCOPE, THEY CANNOT SEE WHERE THEY ARE GOING!
TAKING FIENDISH DELIGHT IN HIS PRANK, NAMOR TWISTS THE VITAL "EYE" OF THE NAZI U-BOAT!

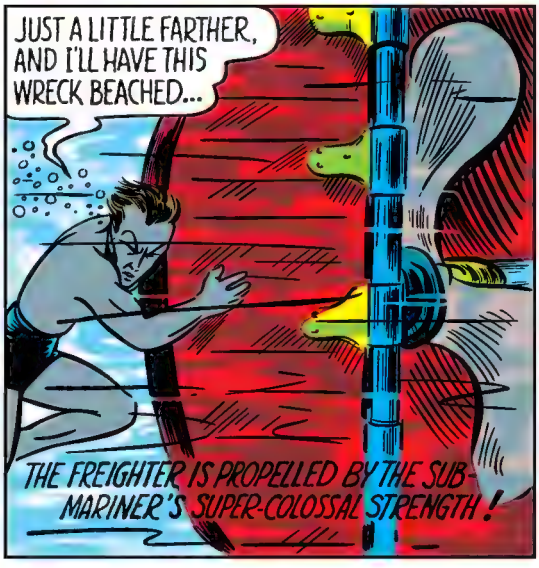

NAMOR DIVES FROM THE CONNING TOWER, LEAVING THE CRIPPLED U-BOAT TO FLOUNDER HELPLESSLY ON THE SURFACE!

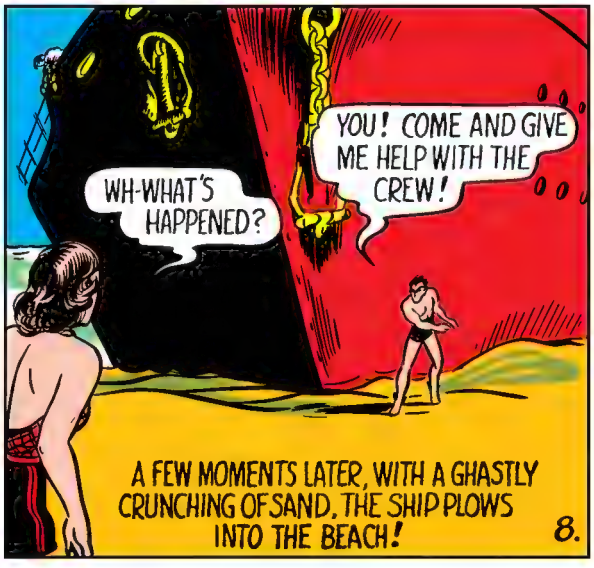

GREAT GAR-FISH! I'VE FORGOTTEN THE GIRL! BUT SHE MUST HAVE SWUM TO THE ISLAND BY THIS TIME.....

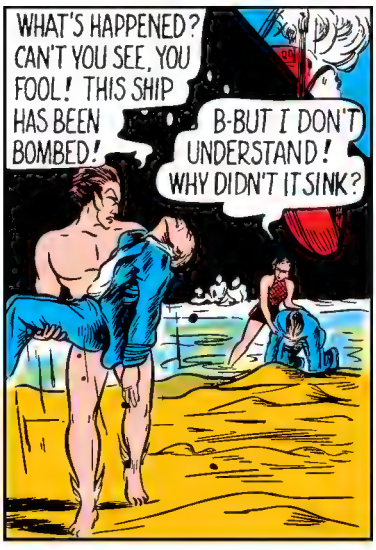

NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE THE SHIP ... BUT SOME OF THE CREW WILL NEVER SEE DAYLIGHT AGAIN, I'M AFRAID!
AMID FLOATING DESBRIS, NAMOR DIVES FOR THE STERN PLATES OF THE SINKING FREIGHTER, DETERMINED TO RESCUE IT IF POSSIBLE....

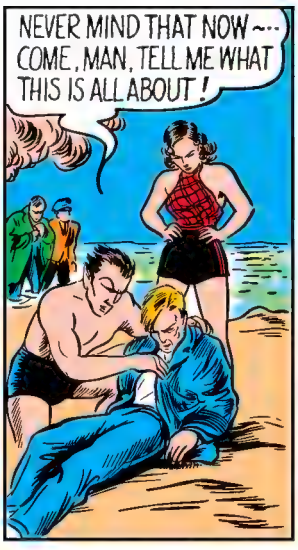

HOLY SMOKES! WHAT WAS THAT?!
THERE IS A GREAT EXPLOSION AS THE U-BOAT CRASHES INTO THE ROCK-BOUND SHORE!

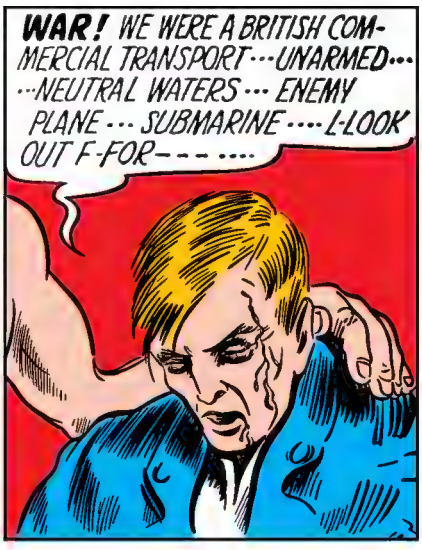

EVEN AS BETTY EXAMINES THE WRECK, HER EYE IS CAUGHT BY THE SUDDEN LIFE OF THE SINKING SHIP!

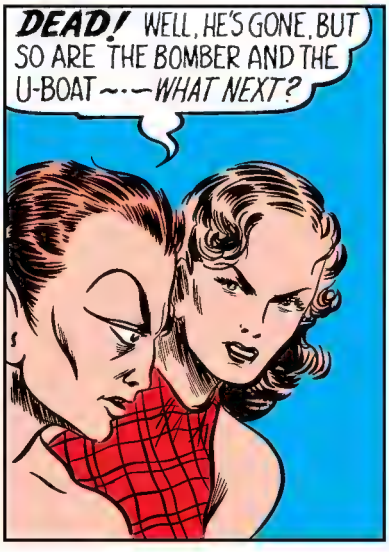

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER, AND I'LL HAVE THIS WRECK BEACHED...
THE FREIGHTER IS PROPELLED BY THE SUB-MARINER'S SUPER-COLOSSAL STRENGTH!


WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED?
YOU! COME AND GIVE ME HELP WITH THE CREW!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, WITH A GHASTLY CRUNCHING OF SAND, THE SHIP PLOWS INTO THE BEACH!


WHAT'S HAPPENED? CAN'T YOU SEE, YOU FOOL! THIS SHIP HAS BEEN BOMBED!
B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY DIDN'T IT SINK?


NEVER MIND THAT NOW ~·· COME, MAN, TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

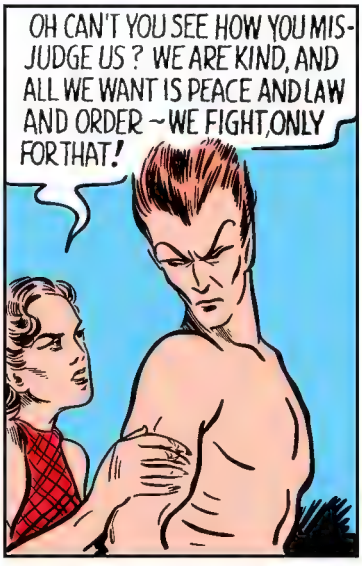

WAR! WE WERE A BRITISH COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT ··· UNARMED ··· ···NEUTRAL WATERS ··· ENEMY PLANE ··· SUBMARINE ···· L-LOOK OUT F-FOR- - - ····


DEAD! WELL, HE'S GONE, BUT SO ARE THE BOMBER AND THE U-BOAT ~·· WHAT NEXT?

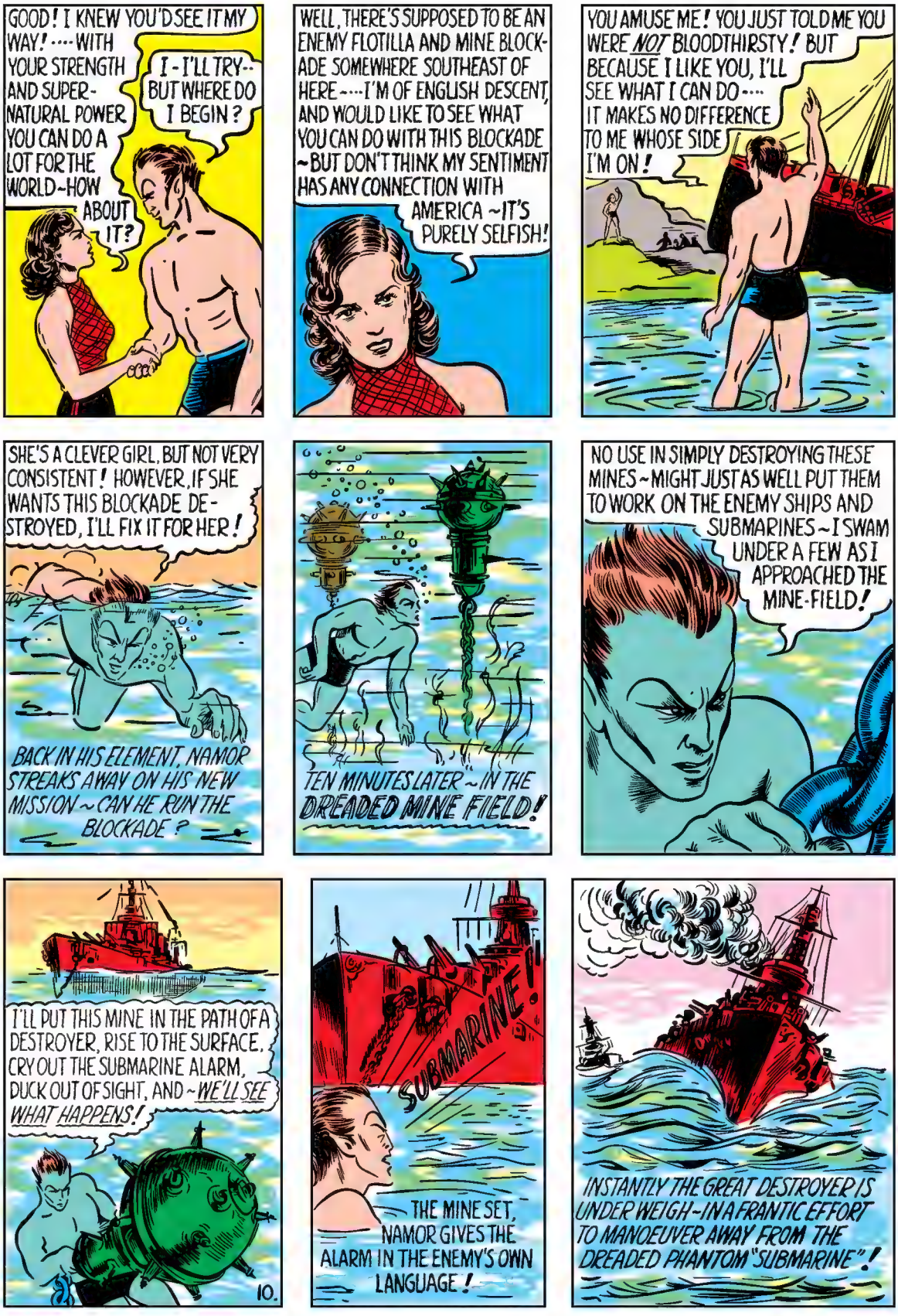
MR. "SUBMARINER", YOU'VE DONE A SWELL JOB HERE ~ WHY DON'T YOU DO MORE?
WHY DO YOU HATE US?

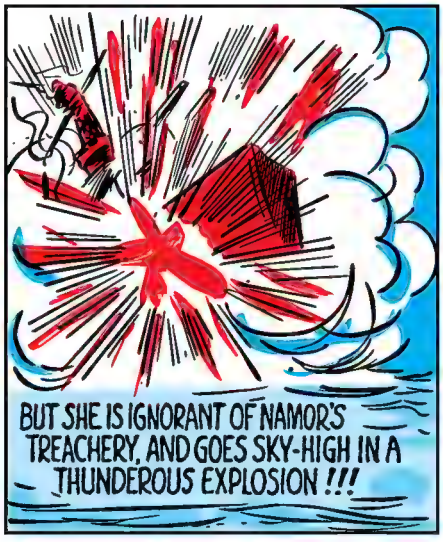
HATE YOU? YES, I HATE YOU ~ AND WITH GOOD REASON! YOU WHITE DEVILS HAVE PERSECUTED AND TORMENTED MY PEOPLE FOR YEARS ~ JUST AS YOU ARE KILLING EACH OTHER OFF NOW, IN THIS WAR!

BUT NO! YOU ARE MISTAKEN! THE AMERICANS ARE NOT BLOODTHIRSTY! WE ARE A GENTLE, EASY-GOING RACE, UNLESS WE ARE AROUSED BY INJUSTICE OR INTOLERANCE ON THE PART OF OUR NEIGHBORS!
9.

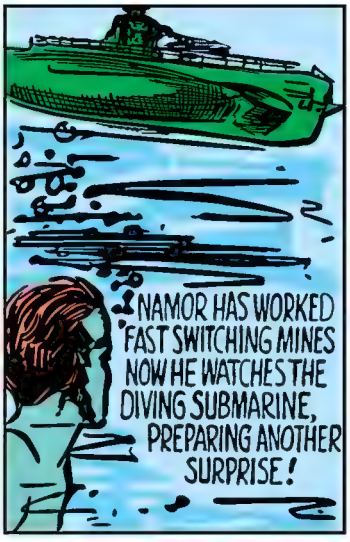

OH CAN'T YOU SEE HOW YOU MISJUDGE US? WE ARE KIND, AND ALL WE WANT IS PEACE AND LAW AND ORDER ~ WE FIGHT, ONLY FOR THAT!

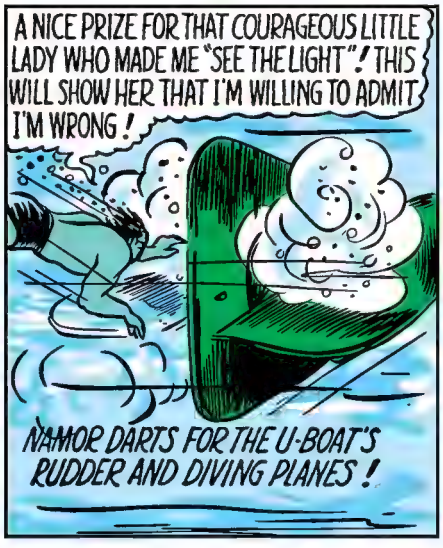
PERHAPS ~ PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW. BUT YOU SEEM HONEST ENOUGH ~ WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?

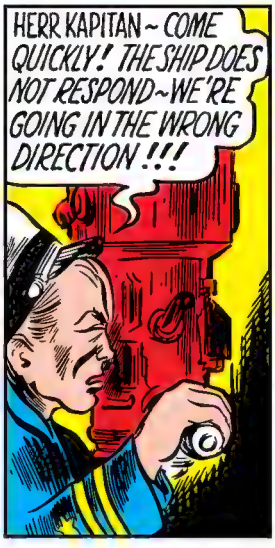

GOOD! I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY! ···· WITH YOUR STRENGTH AND SUPER-NATURAL POWER YOU CAN DO A LOT FOR THE WORLD ~ HOW ABOUT IT?
I - I'LL TRY -- BUT WHERE DO I BEGIN?
WELL, THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN ENEMY FLOTILLA AND MINE BLOCKADE SOMEWHERE SOUTHEAST OF HERE ···· I'M OF ENGLISH DESCENT, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS BLOCKADE ~ BUT DON'T THINK MY SENTIMENT HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH AMERICA ~ IT'S PURELY SELFISH!
YOU AMUSE ME! YOU JUST TOLD ME YOU WERE NOT BLOODTHIRSTY! BUT BECAUSE I LIKE YOU, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ···· IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME WHOSE SIDE I'M ON!
SHE'S A CLEVER GIRL, BUT NOT VERY CONSISTENT! HOWEVER, IF SHE WANTS THIS BLOCKADE DESTROYED, I'LL FIX IT FOR HER!
BACK IN HIS ELEMENT, NAMOR STREAKS AWAY ON HIS NEW MISSION ~ CAN HE RUN THE BLOCKADE?
TEN MINUTES LATER ~ IN THE DREADED MINE FIELD!
NO USE IN SIMPLY DESTROYING THESE MINES ~ MIGHT JUST AS WELL PUT THEM TO WORK ON THE ENEMY SHIPS AND SUBMARINES ~ I SWAM UNDER A FEW AS I APPROACHED THE MINE-FIELD!
I'LL PUT THIS MINE IN THE PATH OF A DESTROYER, RISE TO THE SURFACE, CRY OUT THE SUBMARINE ALARM, DUCK OUT OF SIGHT, AND ~ WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
10.
SUBMARINE!
THE MINE SET, NAMOR GIVES THE ALARM IN THE ENEMY'S OWN LANGUAGE!
INSTANTLY THE GREAT DESTROYER IS UNDER WEIGH ~ IN A FRANTIC EFFORT TO MANOEUVER AWAY FROM THE DREADED PHANTOM "SUBMARINE"!

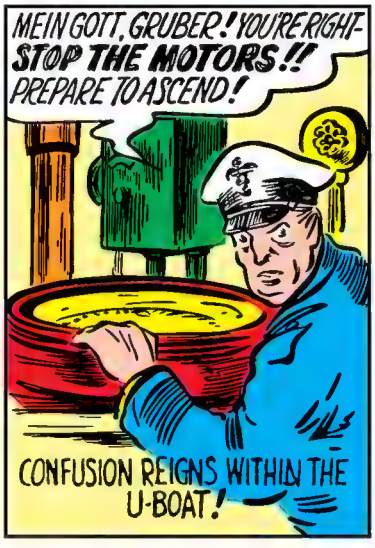

BUT SHE IS IGNORANT OF NAMOR'S TREACHERY, AND GOES SKY-HIGH IN A THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION !!!

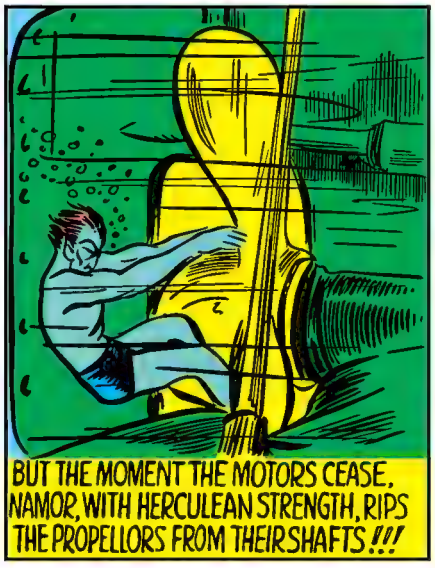
TWO MORE BATTLESHIPS SUCCUMB TO THE MYSTERIOUS ATTACK !
PREPARE TO SUBMERGE ! FULL SPEED !

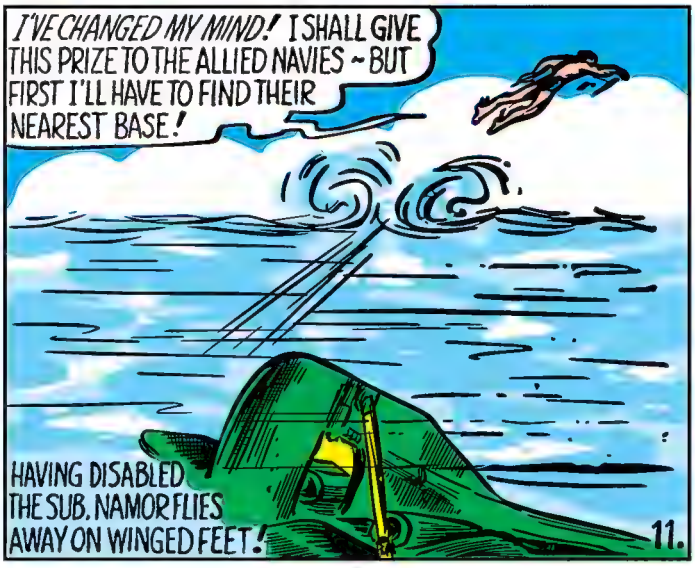

NAMOR HAS WORKED FAST SWITCHING MINES NOW HE WATCHES THE DIVING SUBMARINE, PREPARING ANOTHER SURPRISE !

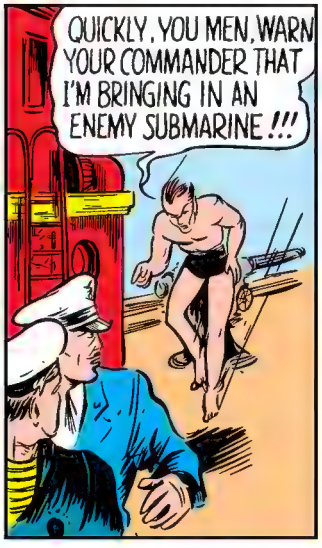

A NICE PRIZE FOR THAT COURAGEOUS LITTLE LADY WHO MADE ME "SEE THE LIGHT" ! THIS WILL SHOW HER THAT I'M WILLING TO ADMIT I'M WRONG !
NAMOR DARTS FOR THE U-BOAT'S RUDDER AND DIVING PLANES !


HERR KAPITAN ~ COME QUICKLY ! THE SHIP DOES NOT RESPOND ~ WE'RE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION !!!

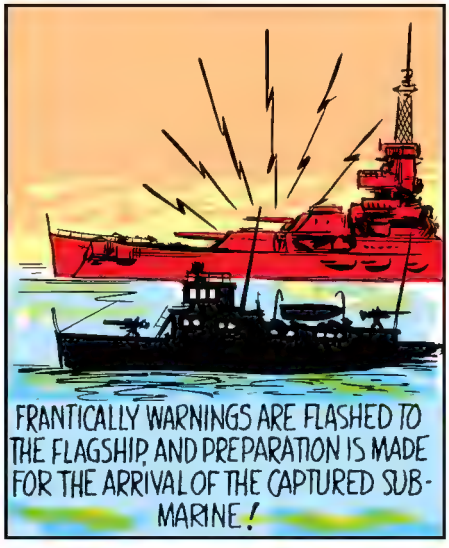

MEIN GOTT, GRUBER ! YOU'RE RIGHT- STOP THE MOTORS !! PREPARE TO ASCEND !
CONFUSION REIGNS WITHIN THE U-BOAT !

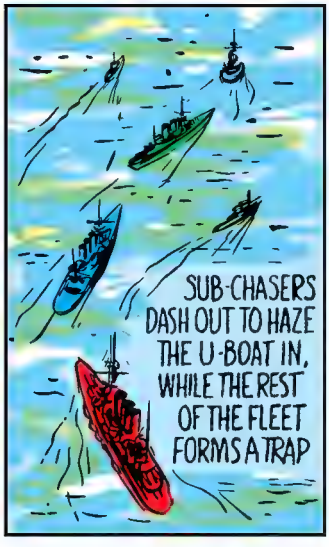

BUT THE MOMENT THE MOTORS CEASE, NAMOR, WITH HERCULEAN STRENGTH, RIPS THE PROPELLORS FROM THEIR SHAFTS !!!

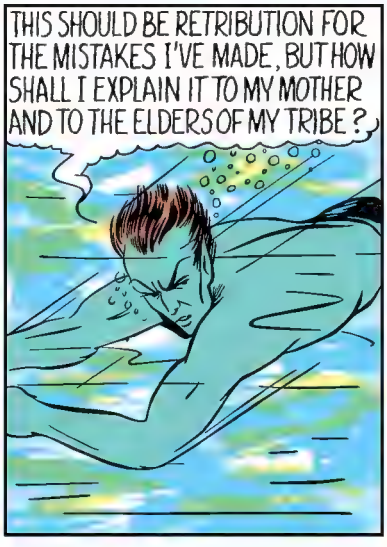

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ! I SHALL GIVE THIS PRIZE TO THE ALLIED NAVIES ~ BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO FIND THEIR NEAREST BASE !
HAVING DISABLED THE SUB, NAMOR FLIES AWAY ON WINGED FEET !

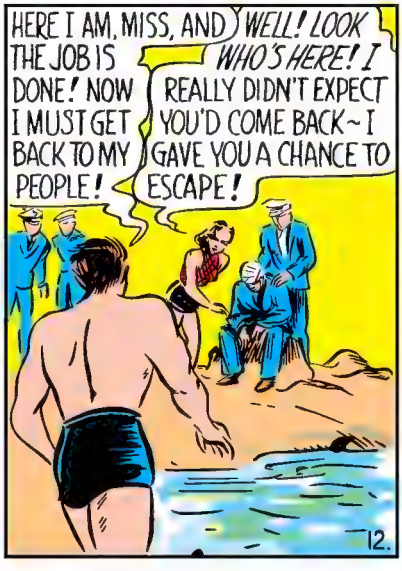


AM I SEEING THINGS, OR DID YOU SEE IT TOO ?
THAT WAS THE "SUB-MARINER", BY GEORGE ! IT'S CRAZY, BUT WE'D BETTER DO AS HE SAYS ~ HE'S NOT ONE TO JOKE ABOUT SUCH THINGS !








HERE I AM, MISS, AND THE JOB IS DONE ! NOW I MUST GET BACK TO MY PEOPLE !
WELL ! LOOK WHO'S HERE ! I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D COME BACK ~ I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO ESCAPE !
12.

WELL SIR, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE WE CAN'T LET YOU GO AGAIN YET ! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE HERE AND IN THE NORTH SEA ~ AND ON LAND, TOO ~ WILL YOU CONTINUE TO HELP THE ALLIES' CAUSE ?

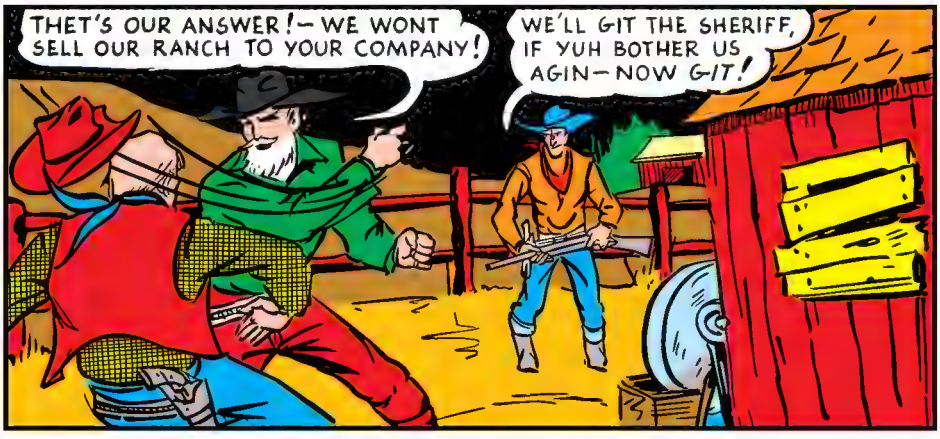
WHAT WILL BE NAMOR'S ANSWER ? WILL HE STAY TO ASSIST THE ALLIES IN THE GREAT WAR, OR DOES HIS THOUGHTFUL EXPRESSION MEAN THAT HE HAS SOMETHING DEEPER UP HIS SLEEVE ?

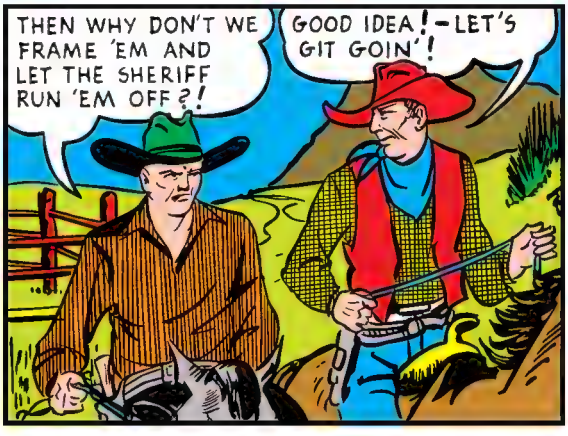
WATCH FOR HIS ANSWER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARVEL COMICS !

THE MASKED RAIDER.

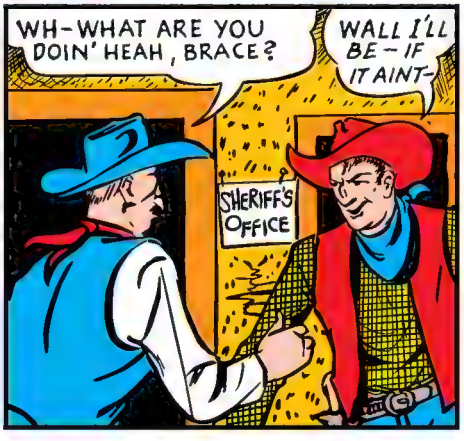
ANDERS

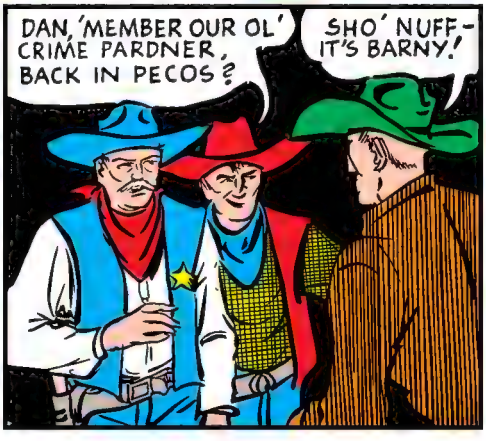
ANOTHER EPISODE IN THE MYSTERIOUS "MASKED" RAIDER'S ENDEAVOR TO BRING LAW AND JUSTICE TO THE WEST ...





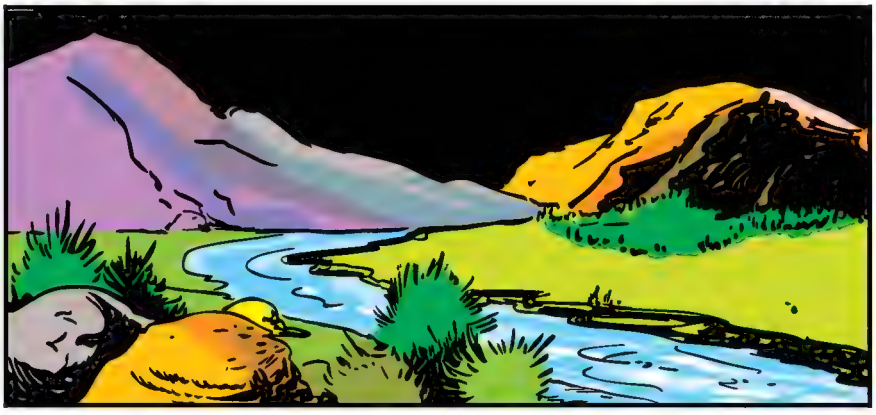
AND SO THE TWO COMPANY AGENTS RIDE INTO MESA SPRINGS TO CALL ON THE SHERIFF

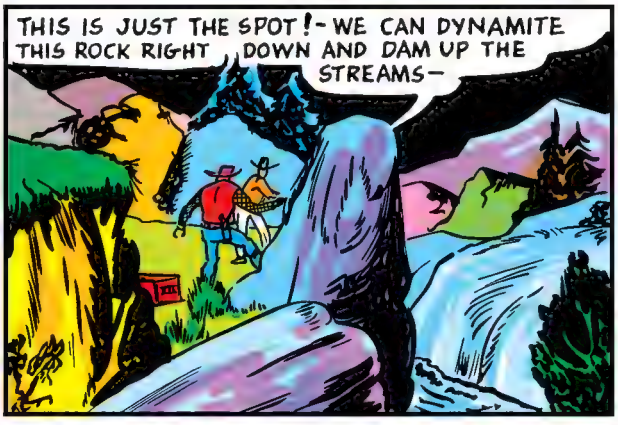


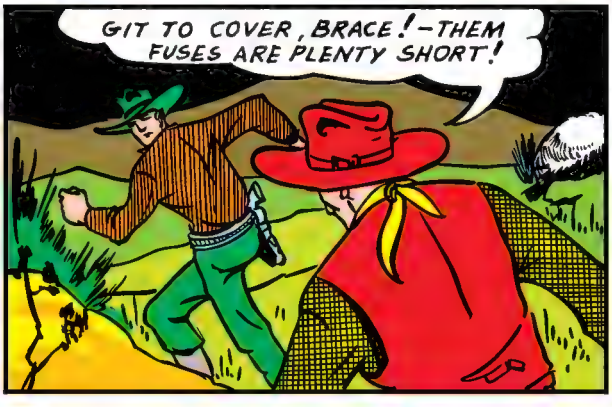


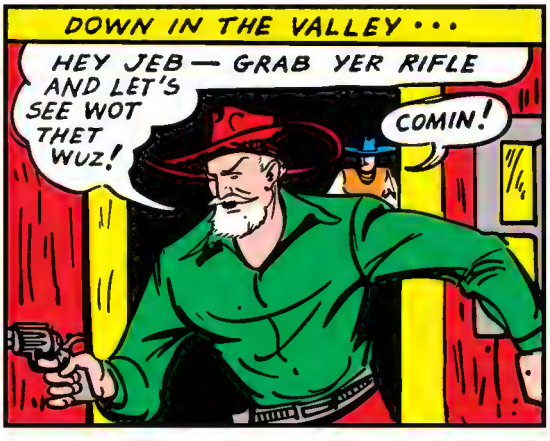
I'VE GONE GTRAIGHT, NOW, FOR MANY A YEAR, SINCE I WAS FRAMED IN PECOS— I SEE IT'S NO USE TO PRETEND ANY LONGER·· WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
FROM NOW ON— YUH DON'T SEE NUTHIN'- YUH DON'T HEAR NUTHIN'-
AND— YUH DON'T SAY NUTHIN'!—
SURE A BREAK, FINDIN' HIM HERE— THE BOSS IS GONNA BE PLEASED!
BLAST THE LUCK!- THOSE HOMBRES ARE PIZEN!
NUTHIN' I CAN DO!- I'LL HAVE TO COVER UP THEIR PLAY!
THE TWO AGENTS, ELATED OVER THEIR FIND— REPORT TO JED SIRRAH, THE CROOKED LAND-GRABBER
HOWDY, BOSS
WELL, BRACE, DID YOU FINISH YORE JOB?
WHAT!- THE SHERIFF!? WHAT HAS HE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
YOU BUNGLING IDIOT— I TOLD YOU TO GO CAREFUL!—
JEST A MINIT, BOSS— YOU GOT BRACE ALL WRONG— HE FOUND OUT, THAT THE SHERIFF IS AN OLD FRIEN' AN' WONT BOTHER US NONE!

HIGH ABOVE THE VALLEY RANCHES LIE THE HILLS, WHOSE STREAMS TWIST AND TURN, FLOWING EVER DOWNWARD— THE LIFE-GIVING ARTERIES OF THE RANCHES

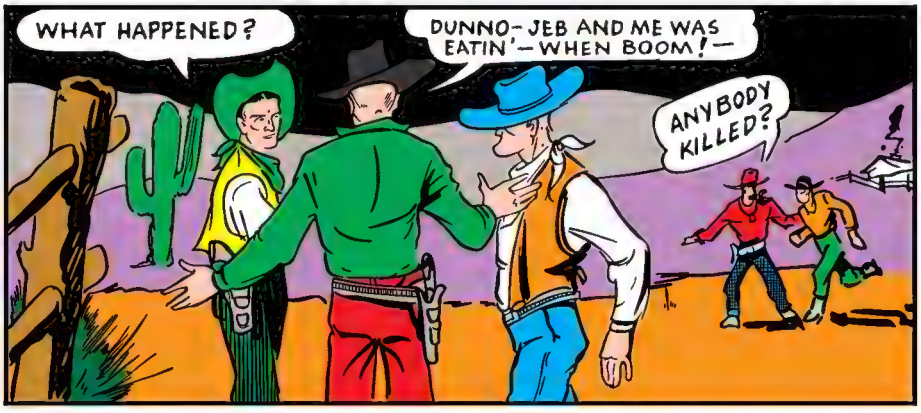


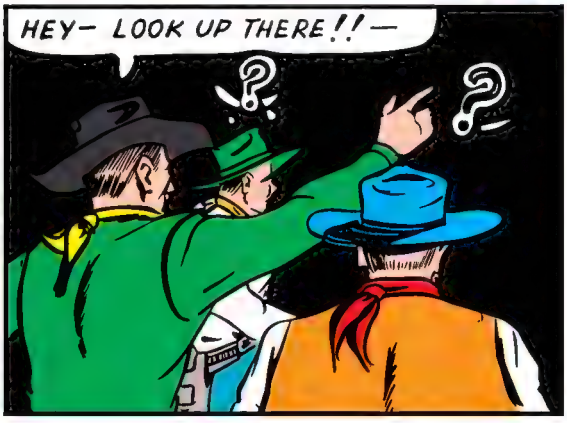


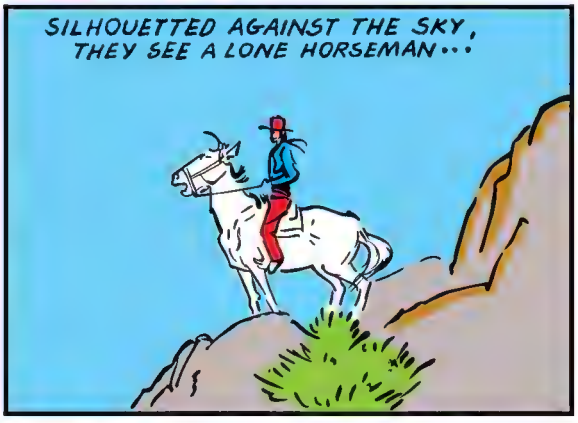




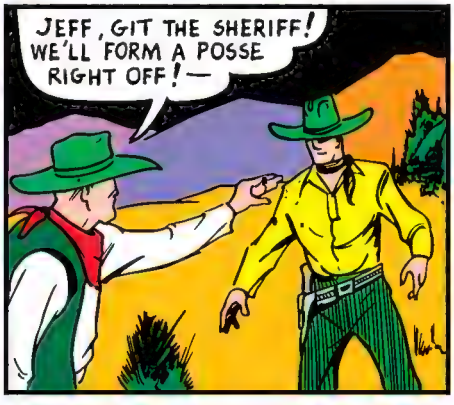
THE EXPLOSION CAUSES GREAT EXCITEMENT ON THE RANCH OF JEB AND DAN BARNES

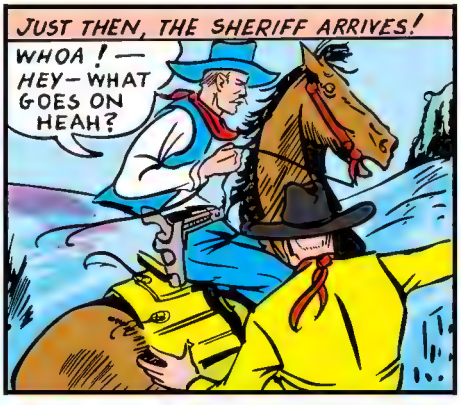


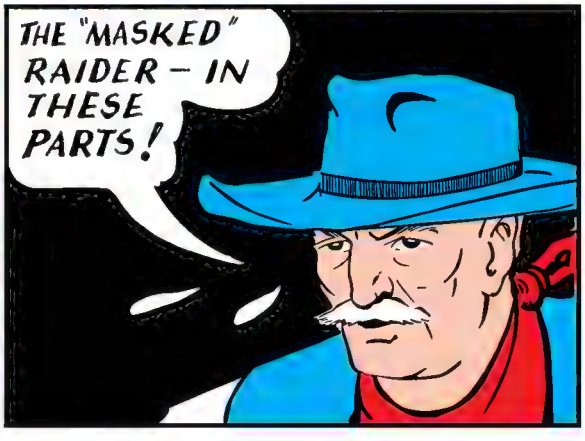




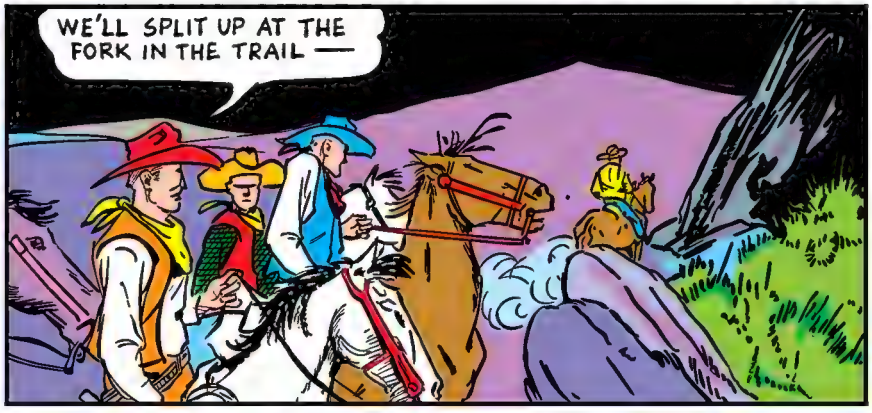
IT IS THE "MASKED" RAIDER, BROUGHT TO THE SPOT BY THE LOUD ECHO OF THE EXPLOSION!

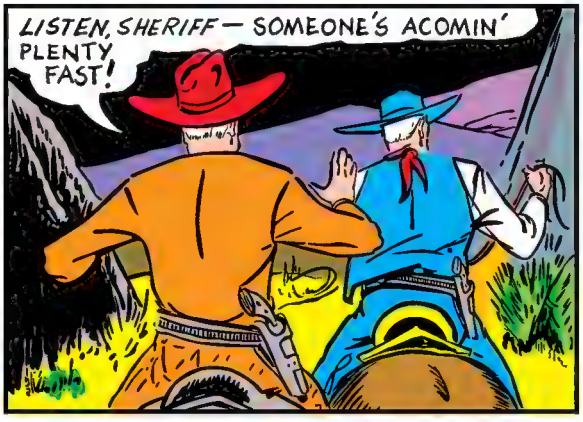


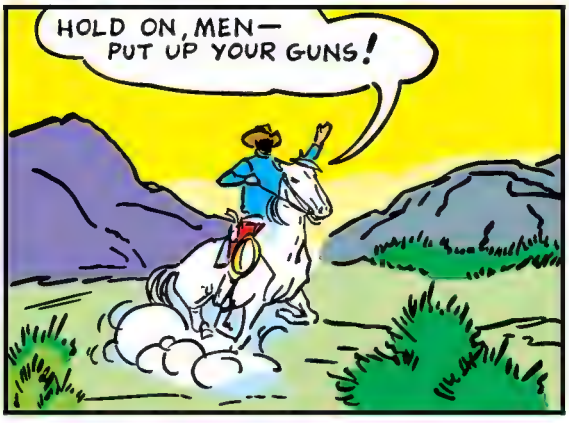


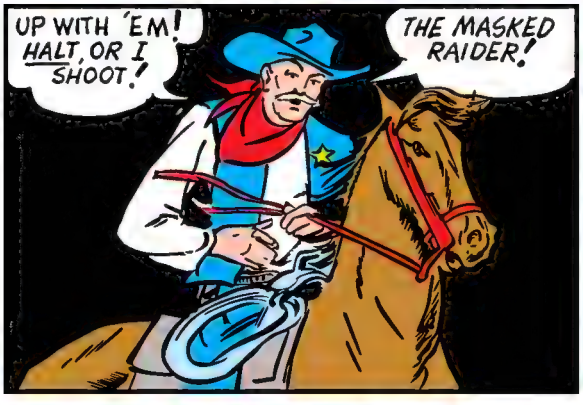


LED BY THE SHERIFF, THE POSSE STARTS OUT IN SEARCH OF THE MASKED RAIDER·· A GRIM LOT OF MEN, READY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY···

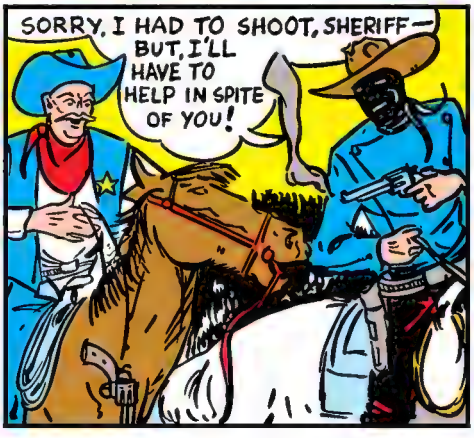




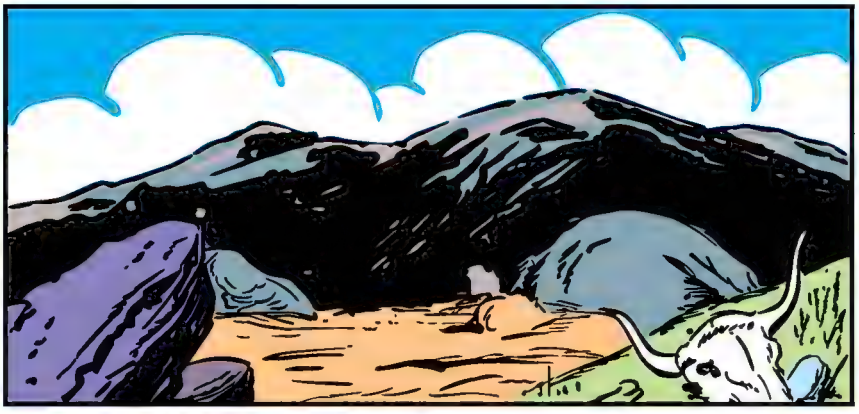


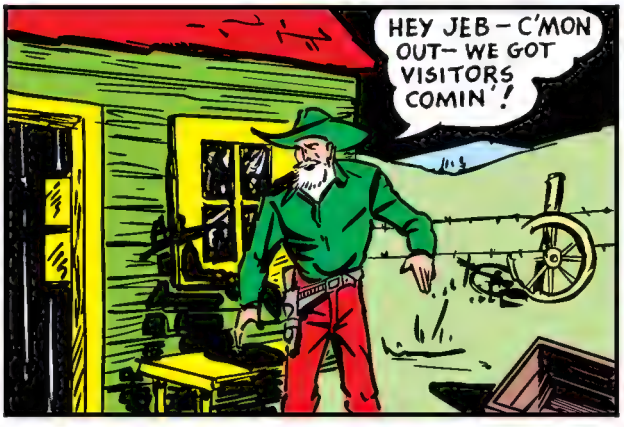


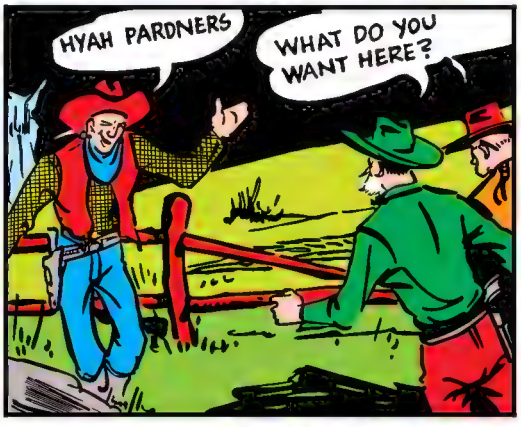
BUT — THE SHERIFF ATTEMPTS TO SHOOT!



AFTER DAYS OF FRUITLESS SEARCH, THE POSSE TURNS BACK··· THEY FIND THAT THEIR PROPERTY HAS ALREADY FELT THE EFFECTS OF THE LACK OF WATER







UNSEEN, THE MASKED RAIDER HAS FOLLOWED THE AGENTS TO THE RANCH HE WAITS UNTIL HE HEARS—

WELL, JEB – GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL SIGN-AT THEIR TERMS—

THE MASKED RAIDER BREAKS IN ON THE GROUP

DON'T SIGN THAT!

A M'MASKED MAN!

DONT ANYONE ELSE MAKE THE MISTAKE OF REACHING FOR A GUN!

NOW, GET THIS! THEY'RE NOT SELLING —! THIS LAND IS VALUABLE! – GET GOING!

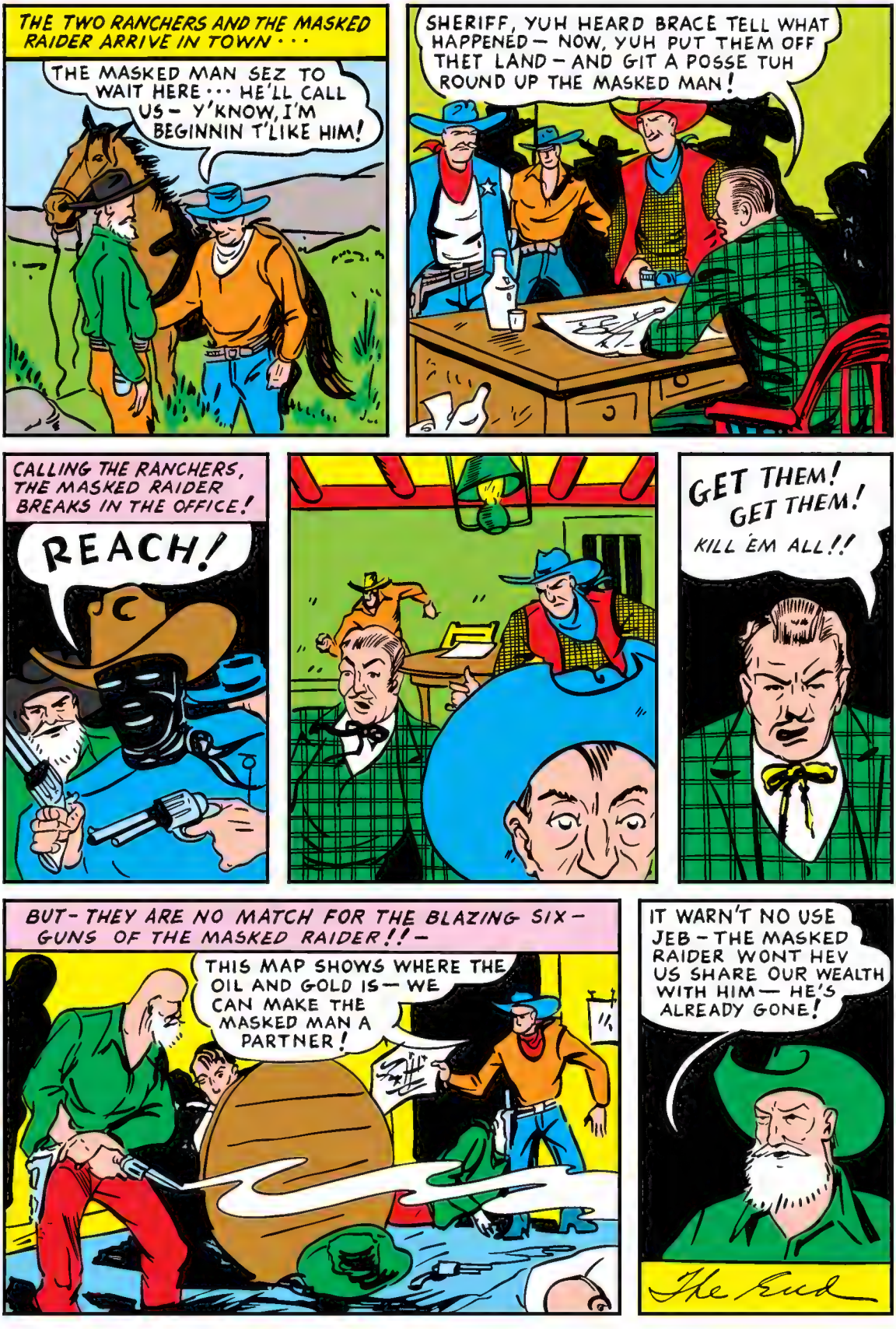
THE TWO AGENTS – GLAD TO ESCAPE THE WRATH OF THE MASKED RAIDER, HEAD FOR TOWN···

THET'S A LAUGH – THIS LAND IS PLUMB RUINT! — I GOTTA FEELIN' YORE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS MESS!

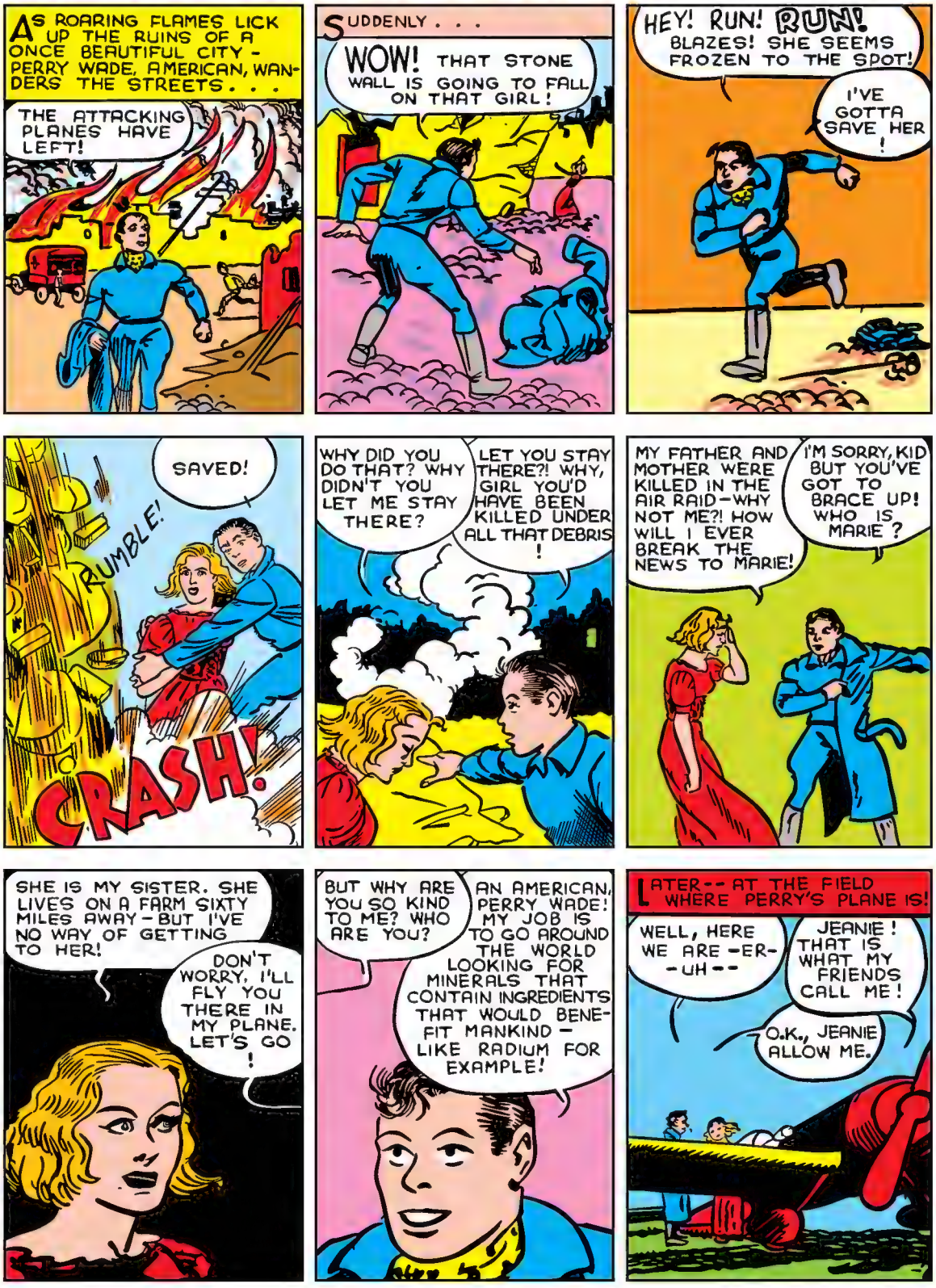
WITH CHARACTERISTIC PATIENCE, THE MASKED RAIDER EXPLAINS THAT THE TRUE VALUE OF THE RANCH LIES IN ITS OIL AND GOLD DEPOSITS···

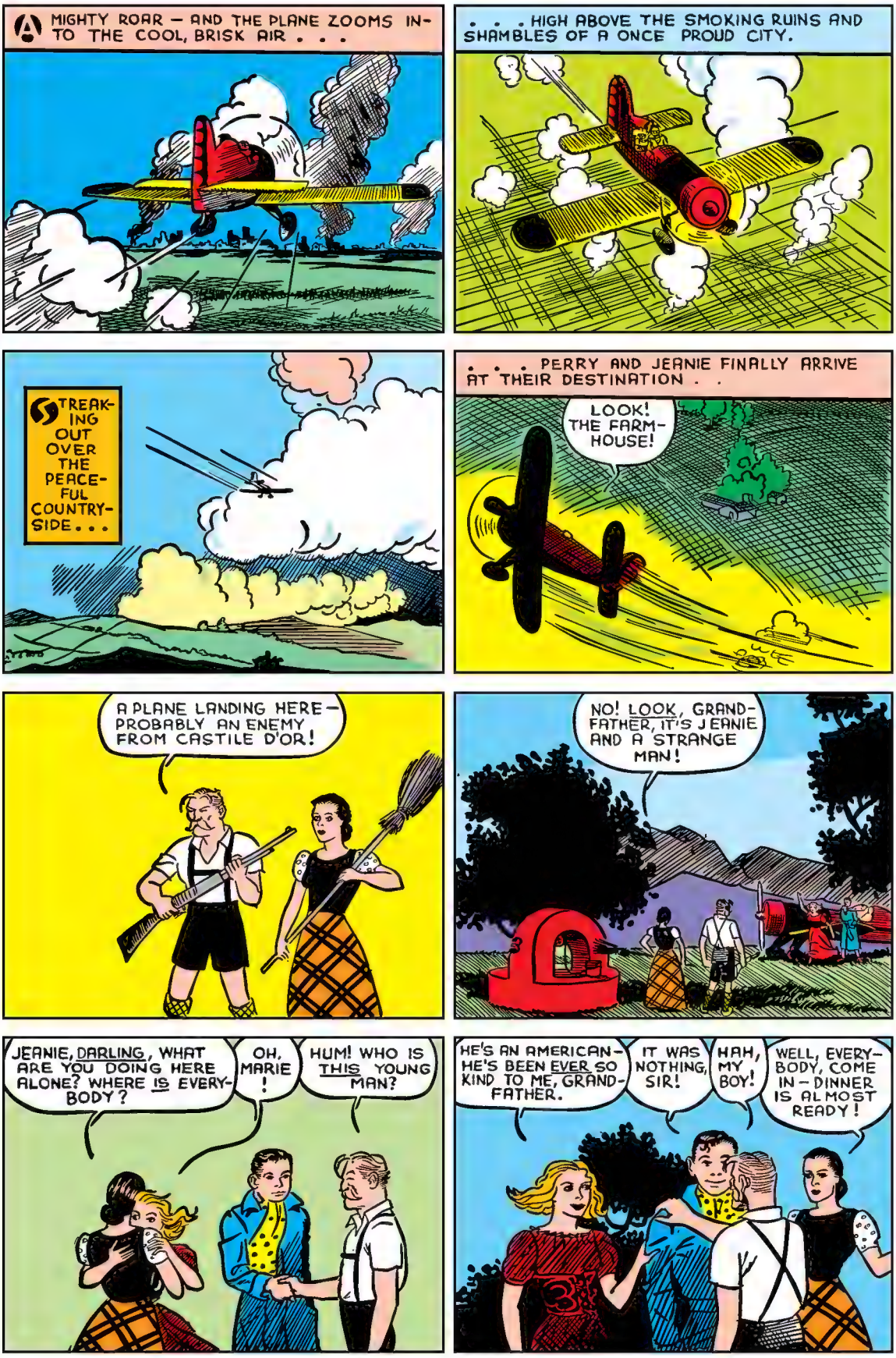
AWRIGHT – WE'LL GO AND SEE WHAT PROOF YUH CAN GIVE US···

FINE!


THE TWO RANCHERS AND THE MASKED RAIDER ARRIVE IN TOWN · · ·
THE MASKED MAN SEZ TO WAIT HERE · · · HE'LL CALL US – Y'KNOW, I'M BEGINNIN T'LIKE HIM!
SHERIFF, YUH HEARD BRACE TELL WHAT HAPPENED – NOW, YUH PUT THEM OFF THET LAND – AND GIT A POSSE TUH ROUND UP THE MASKED MAN!
CALLING THE RANCHERS, THE MASKED RAIDER BREAKS IN THE OFFICE!
REACH!
GET THEM! GET THEM!
KILL 'EM ALL!!
BUT – THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE BLAZING SIX-GUNS OF THE MASKED RAIDER!! –
THIS MAP SHOWS WHERE THE OIL AND GOLD IS – WE CAN MAKE THE MASKED MAN A PARTNER!
IT WARN'T NO USE JEB – THE MASKED RAIDER WONT HEV US SHARE OUR WEALTH WITH HIM – HE'S ALREADY GONE!
The End

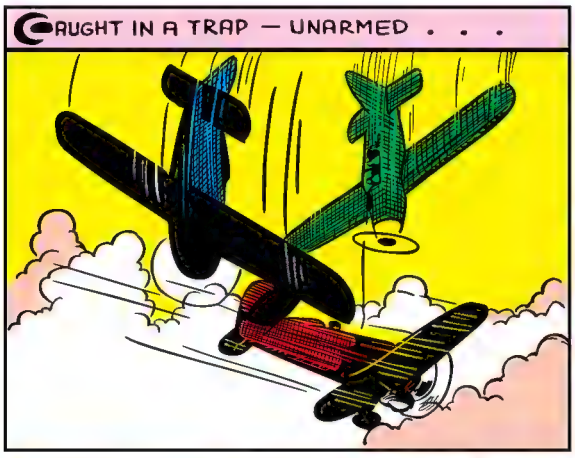
AMERICAN ACE BY PAUL LAUBETTA

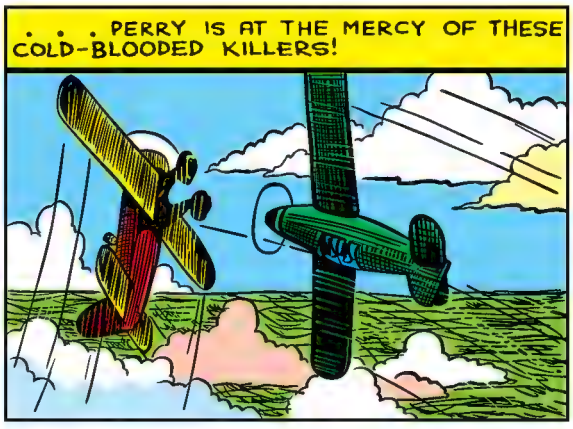

AS ROARING FLAMES LICK UP THE RUINS OF A ONCE BEAUTIFUL CITY - PERRY WADE, AMERICAN, WANDERS THE STREETS . . .
THE ATTACKING PLANES HAVE LEFT!
SUDDENLY . . .
WOW! THAT STONE WALL IS GOING TO FALL ON THAT GIRL!
HEY! RUN! RUN! BLAZES! SHE SEEMS FROZEN TO THE SPOT!
I'VE GOTTA SAVE HER!
SAVED!
RUMBLE!
CRASH!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME STAY THERE?
LET YOU STAY THERE?! WHY, GIRL YOU'D HAVE BEEN KILLED UNDER ALL THAT DEBRIS!
MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE KILLED IN THE AIR RAID - WHY NOT ME?! HOW WILL I EVER BREAK THE NEWS TO MARIE!
I'M SORRY, KID BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BRACE UP! WHO IS MARIE?
SHE IS MY SISTER. SHE LIVES ON A FARM SIXTY MILES AWAY - BUT I'VE NO WAY OF GETTING TO HER!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FLY YOU THERE IN MY PLANE. LET'S GO!
BUT WHY ARE YOU SO KIND TO ME? WHO ARE YOU?
AN AMERICAN, PERRY WADE! MY JOB IS TO GO AROUND THE WORLD LOOKING FOR MINERALS THAT CONTAIN INGREDIENTS THAT WOULD BENEFIT MANKIND - LIKE RADIUM FOR EXAMPLE!
LATER -- AT THE FIELD WHERE PERRY'S PLANE IS!
WELL, HERE WE ARE -ER- -UH--
JEANIE! THAT IS WHAT MY FRIENDS CALL ME!
O.K., JEANIE ALLOW ME.

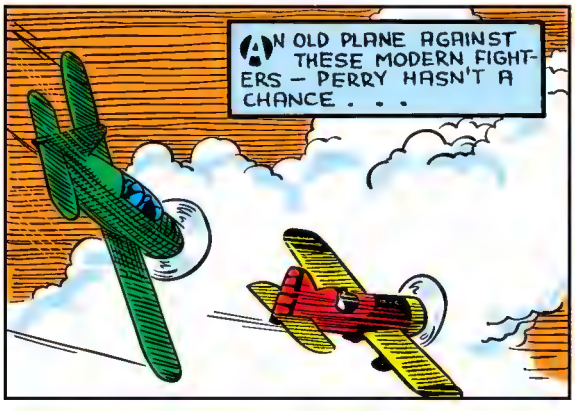

A MIGHTY ROAR — AND THE PLANE ZOOMS INTO THE COOL, BRISK AIR . . .
. . . HIGH ABOVE THE SMOKING RUINS AND SHAMBLES OF A ONCE PROUD CITY.
STREAKING OUT OVER THE PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE . . .
. . . PERRY AND JEANIE FINALLY ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION . .
LOOK! THE FARMHOUSE!
A PLANE LANDING HERE — PROBABLY AN ENEMY FROM CASTILE D'OR!
NO! LOOK, GRANDFATHER, IT'S JEANIE AND A STRANGE MAN!
JEANIE, DARLING, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALONE? WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
OH, MARIE!
HUM! WHO IS THIS YOUNG MAN?
HE'S AN AMERICAN — HE'S BEEN EVER SO KIND TO ME, GRANDFATHER.
IT WAS NOTHING, SIR!
HAH, MY BOY!
WELL, EVERYBODY, COME IN — DINNER IS ALMOST READY!

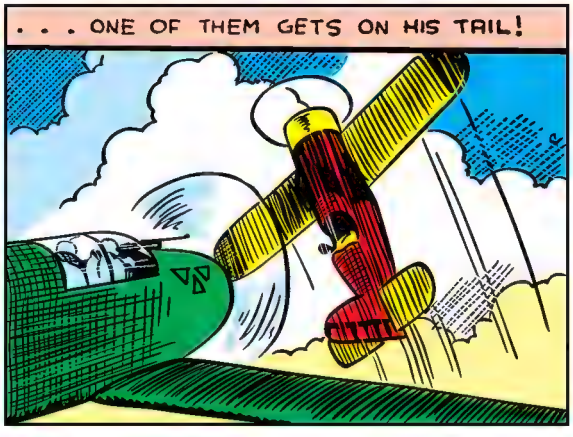
A FRUGAL MEAL FOLLOWED BY THE TRAGIC, SADDENING NEWS . . .
THERE—THERE, GIRLS, WE MUST BE BRAVE! THINK OF THE MANY OTHERS, WHO HAVE ALSO LOST SOMEONE CLOSE AND DEAR TO THEM!
OH! — AND JOHN MY POOR, DEAR HUSBAND — IN THE TRENCHES !
AWAY FROM ALL THIS SUFFERING AND ANGUISH IN THE LUXURIOUS CHAMBERS OF QUEEN URSULA IN CASTILE D'OR . . .
DOGS! I'LL LET THEM GROVEL UNDER MY FEET — I'LL RULE THE WORLD YET — THEY SHALL ALL HEAR MY CRY FOR SUPREMACY, AND QUAKE . . .
BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS, TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE WORLD — THAT IS MADNESS!
MADNESS? JOSEF, I'LL WARN YOU TO KEEP A MORE DISCREET TONGUE IN YOUR HEAD OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF MINUS A TONGUE!
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MY QUEEN!
NOW, THEN, TAKE THIS DOCUMENT — HAVE THOUSANDS OF DUPLICATES MADE AND POSTED WHERE EVERY SOLDIER, MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE LAND WILL SEE IT!
REPRESS THE OPPRESSOR! FIGHT
A FERVOR OF PATRIOTISM SWEEPS OVER CASTILE D'OR!
AGITATING POSTERS ARE PLACED AT STRATEGIC POINTS THRUOUT THE LAND.
LONG HAVE WE BEEN SUBJECT TO THE DESIRES OF OTHER COUNTRIES!
TRUE! TRUE!
BUT, THOSE DAYS ARE GONE!
AYE! WITH QUEEN URSULA BACK, WE ARE THE STRONGEST NATION ON EARTH!
FIGHT—FIGHT THE OPPRESSOR! THAT IS THE ANSWER!
CRUSH THEM !
LONG LIVE QUEEN URSULA!

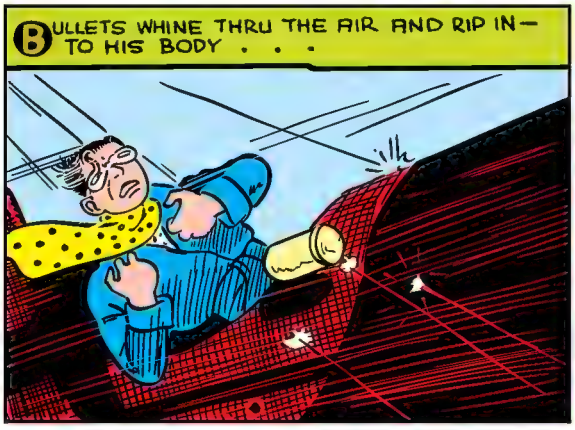
A SUNNY DAY – A GLORIOUS DAY – BACK AT THE SMALL FARM IN ATTAINIA . . .
SITTING HERE, YOU WOULDN'T DREAM BATTLES ARE BEING FOUGHT AND HUMAN LIVES SNUFFED OUT NOT SO FAR AWAY!
TRUE! AND FOR THAT REASON I MUST LEAVE ATTAINIA AND CONTINUE MY WORK IN A MORE PEACEFUL COUNTRY.
MUST YOU GO?
YES – IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MY WORK GOES ON UNINTERRUPTED. BESIDES, HERE THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN ANYTHING THAT WOULD BENEFIT MANKIND – THEY ARE MORE OR LESS CONCERNED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF IT!
WE HATE TO SEE YOU LEAVE!
IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL THIS LAST WEEK HAVING YOU HERE!
GOOD-BYE, MY SON, AND GOOD LUCK!
DIPPING A WING LOW IN A LAST FAREWELL, PERRY HEADS EASTWARD . . .
. . . AND WITH GUNS CHATTERING A SONG OF DEATH, THEY DIVE UPON THEIR UNSUSPECTING PREY!
. . . ALREADY THE LEADER HAS SEEN THE SMALL PLANE TAKE-OFF – HE GIVES A SIGNAL . . .
THEN THE THREE TINY FIGURES ON THE FARM LOOK AGHAST – HIGH ABOVE, TO THE REAR OF PERRY IS AN ENEMY PATROL . . .

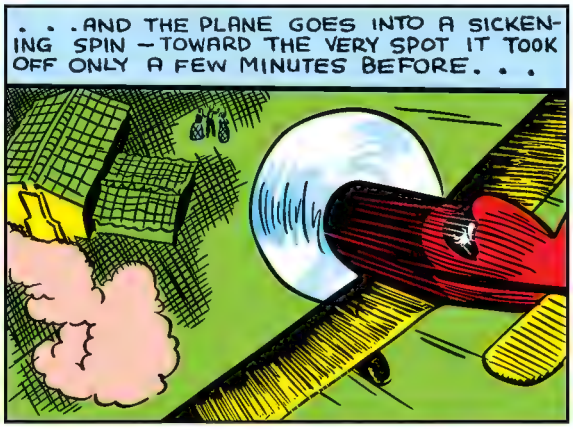

CAUGHT IN A TRAP — UNARMED . . .

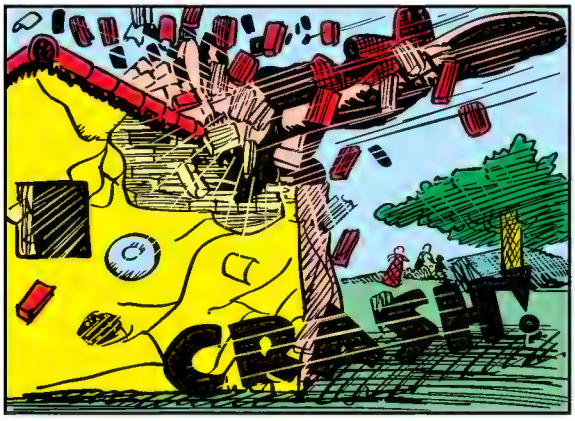

. . . PERRY IS AT THE MERCY OF THESE COLD-BLOODED KILLERS!

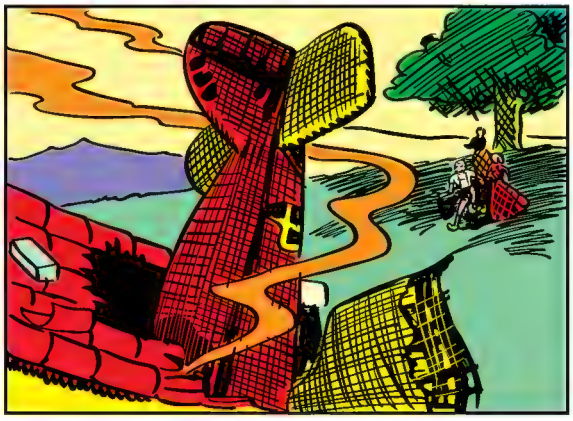

AN OLD PLANE AGAINST THESE MODERN FIGHTERS — PERRY HASN'T A CHANCE . . .

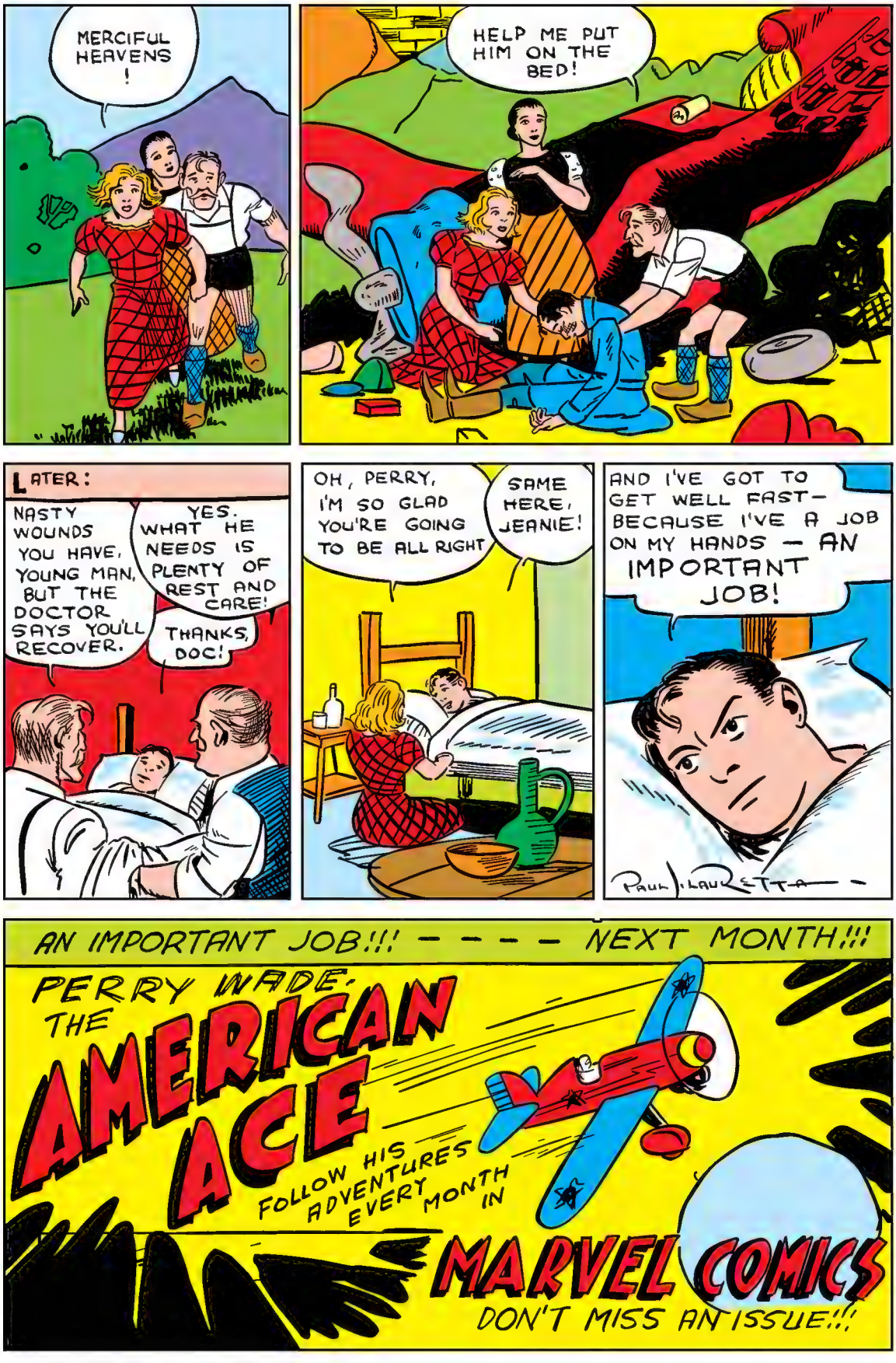

. . . ONE OF THEM GETS ON HIS TAIL!


BULLETS WHINE THRU THE AIR AND RIP IN— TO HIS BODY . . .

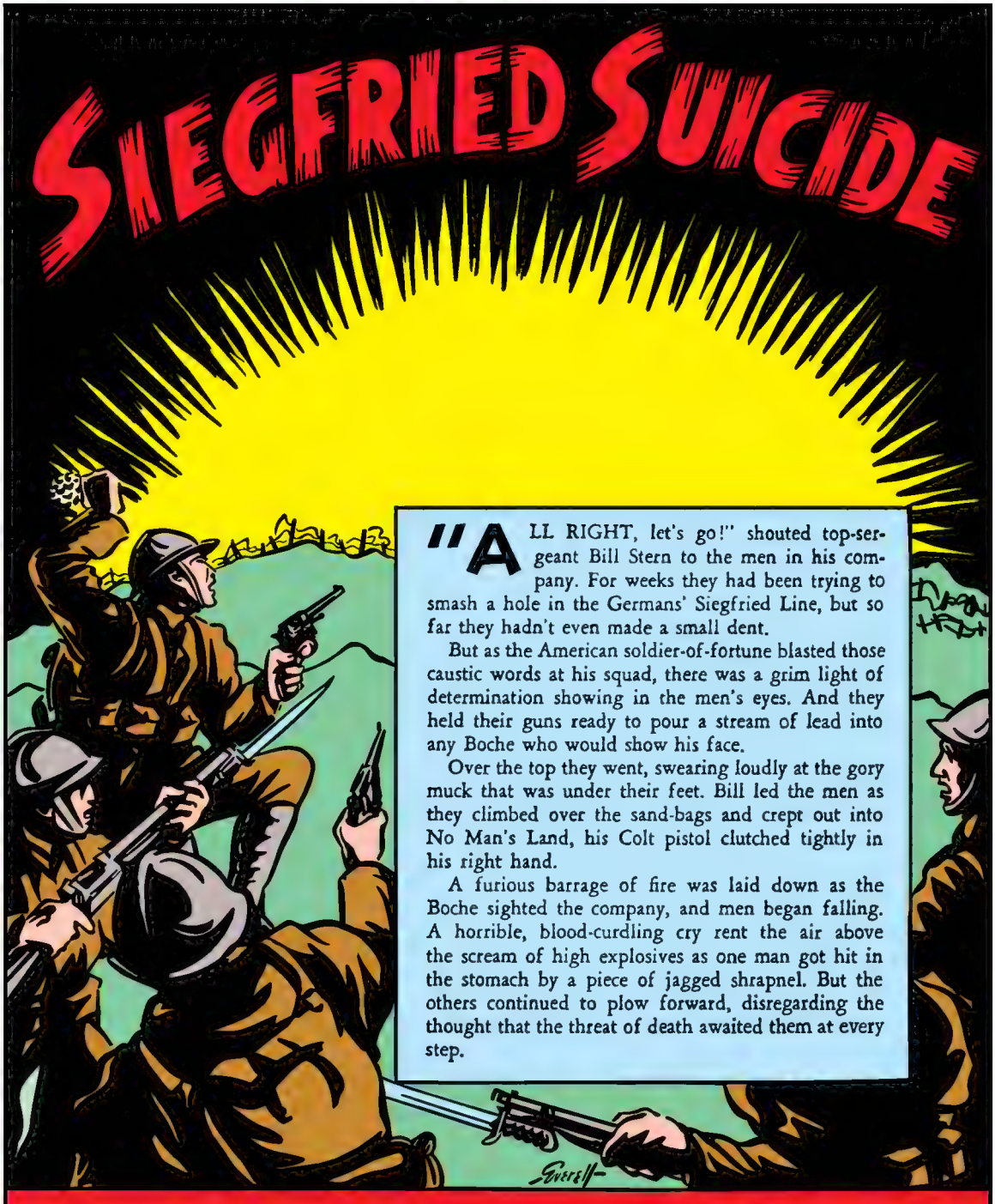

. . . AND THE PLANE GOES INTO A SICKENING SPIN — TOWARD THE VERY SPOT IT TOOK OFF ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE. . .






MERCIFUL HEAVENS!
HELP ME PUT HIM ON THE BED!
LATER:
NASTY WOUNDS YOU HAVE, YOUNG MAN, BUT THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU'LL RECOVER.
YES. WHAT HE NEEDS IS PLENTY OF REST AND CARE!
THANKS, DOC!
OH, PERRY, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT
SAME HERE, JEANIE!
AND I'VE GOT TO GET WELL FAST— BECAUSE I'VE A JOB ON MY HANDS — AN IMPORTANT JOB!
PAUL LAURETTA
AN IMPORTANT JOB!!! - - - - NEXT MONTH!!!
PERRY WADE: THE AMERICAN ACE
FOLLOW HIS ADVENTURES EVERY MONTH IN
MARVEL COMICS
DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!!!

SIEGFRIED SUICIDE



"ALL RIGHT, let's go!" shouted top-sergeant Bill Stern to the men in his company. For weeks they had been trying to smash a hole in the Germans' Siegfried Line, but so far they hadn't even made a small dent.

But as the American soldier-of-fortune blasted those caustic words at his squad, there was a grim light of determination showing in the men's eyes. And they held their guns ready to pour a stream of lead into any Boche who would show his face.

Over the top they went, swearing loudly at the gory muck that was under their feet. Bill led the men as they climbed over the sand-bags and crept out into No Man's Land, his Colt pistol clutched tightly in his right hand.

A furious barrage of fire was laid down as the Boche sighted the company, and men began falling. A horrible, blood-curdling cry rent the air above the scream of high explosives as one man got hit in the stomach by a piece of jagged shrapnel. But the others continued to plow forward, disregarding the thought that the threat of death awaited them at every step.

Nothing, not even the fortified line, could stop this soldier of fortune in his wild dash to victory!

By David C. Cooke

BILL threw himself into a shell-hole, along with about twenty of the men in his squad. "Say," he asked one of the soldiers, "where are the rest of the guys? Are they near?"

The Frenchman shrugged his shoulders. *"C'est la Guerre,"* he answered. *"Voila!* They are all dead! Caught by cross-fire from the Siegfried."

Bill's blood boiled in rage. "Blast you dirty Huns!" he shouted, shaking his fist at the German line. "We'll get you murderin' rats. Just wait!"

He started to crawl cautiously from the crater, inching himself across the ground slowly so as not to attract attention. "Stay back, you Frogs," he called to his men as they started to follow. "There's been enough of you guys killed. I'll take care of this alone."

He then started to creep forward again, and buried his face in a puddle of muck as a star-shell broke overhead. When it had gone out, he moved forward again.

Suddenly the artillery barrage stopped. The Nazi apparently thought that the Frenchmen had been wiped out, and were saving their shells until the next attempt. And that made Bill's going all the easier. The night was black and he could move without being seen from the other side.

After what seemed like hours, the American came within sight of the first grim fort. It was a low structure, made of concrete, with the muzzles of high-caliber guns protruding through slits in the walls. Bill jumped to his feet, rushed forward, and flattened himself against the wall of the fort, so that the guns from within would not be able to reach him, and rested for a moment.

A few minutes later he stole around the fort, looking for a door. But finding none, he had to try for something else, and stole out a few feet to see if there were any windows in the Fritz building.

"Ach, kumst der tag!" came a gutteral voice from the structure. "The *verdammt* Allies cannot stand for much longer the fire that we have been giving them. Soon they will be *kaput. Sehr gut!"*

"Yeah?" snarled Bill. "That's what *you think!"* And he snatched a hand grenade from his belt. He pulled the pin out of the bomb with his teeth and poised himself for a mighty toss.

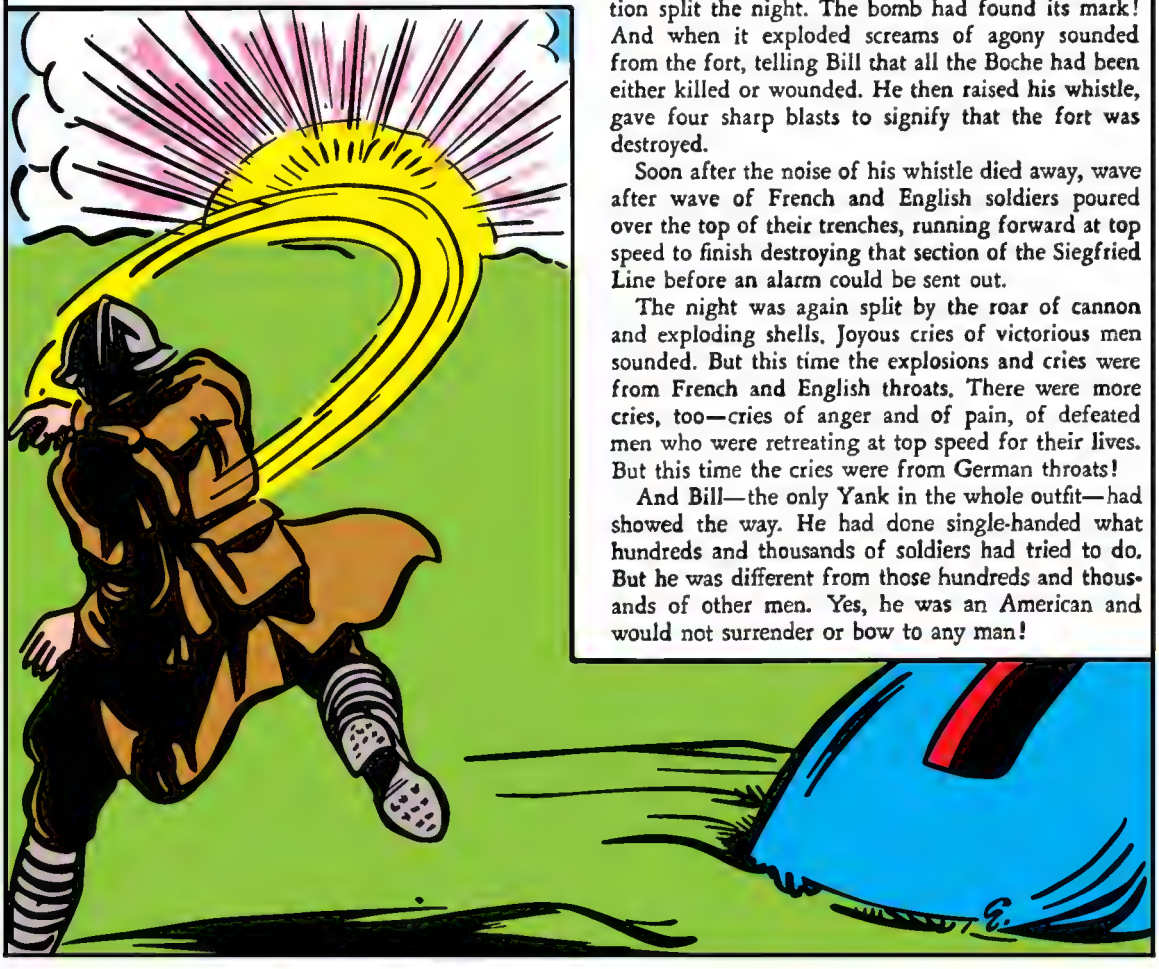
Bill at that moment was glad that he had played baseball, for he knew that the training he had got years ago would help him place that Mills' bomb square through one of those small observation slits. And with a prayer for success, he drew his arm back and threw with all his strength.

A short time elapsed, and then a deafening detonation split the night. The bomb had found its mark! And when it exploded screams of agony sounded from the fort, telling Bill that all the Boche had been either killed or wounded. He then raised his whistle, gave four sharp blasts to signify that the fort was destroyed.

Soon after the noise of his whistle died away, wave after wave of French and English soldiers poured over the top of their trenches, running forward at top speed to finish destroying that section of the Siegfried Line before an alarm could be sent out.

The night was again split by the roar of cannon and exploding shells. Joyous cries of victorious men sounded. But this time the explosions and cries were from French and English throats. There were more cries, too—cries of anger and of pain, of defeated men who were retreating at top speed for their lives. But this time the cries were from German throats!

And Bill—the only Yank in the whole outfit—had showed the way. He had done single-handed what hundreds and thousands of soldiers had tried to do. But he was different from those hundreds and thousands of other men. Yes, he was an American and would not surrender or bow to any man!

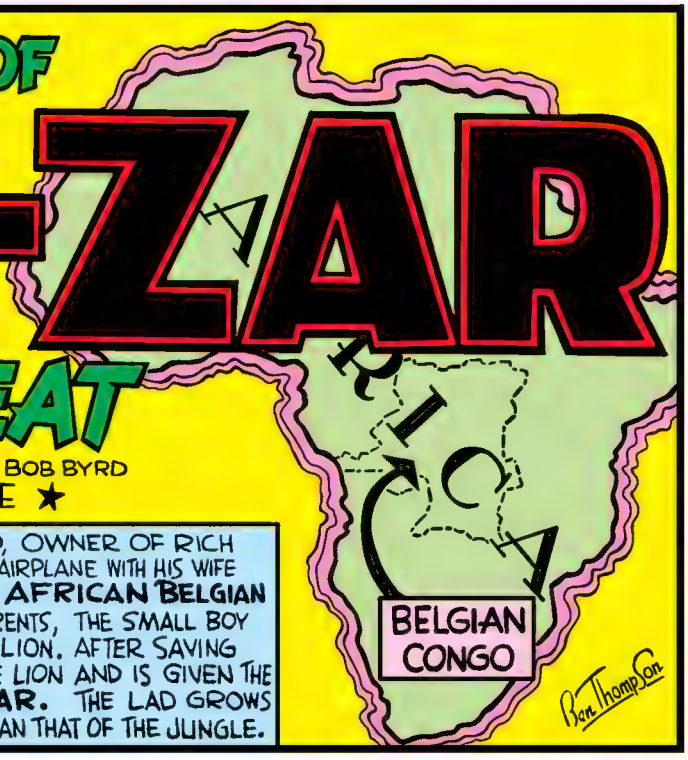


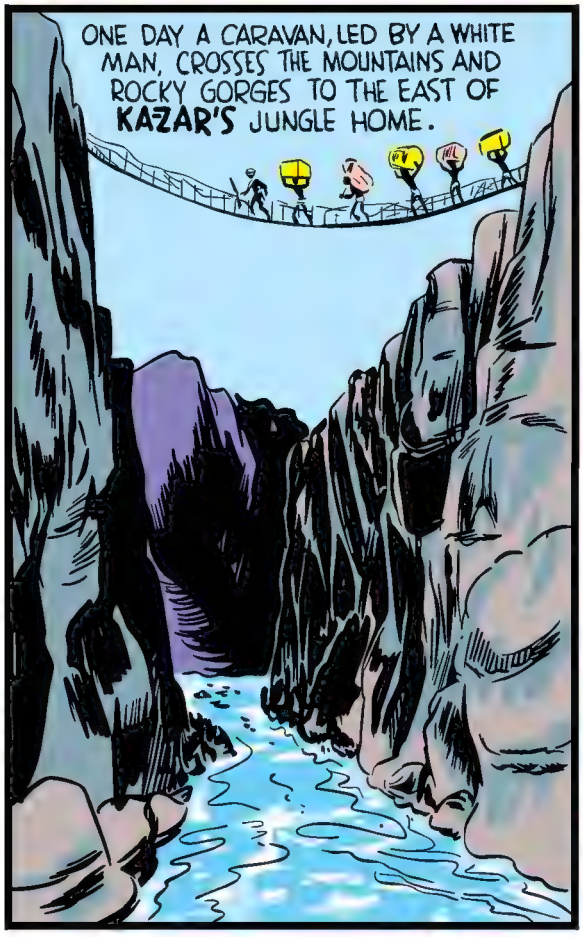
ADVENTURES OF KA-ZAR THE GREAT

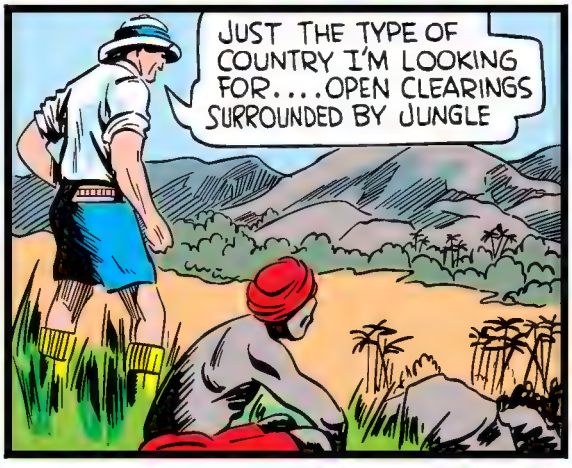
FROM THE FAMOUS CHARACTER CREATED BY BOB BYRD

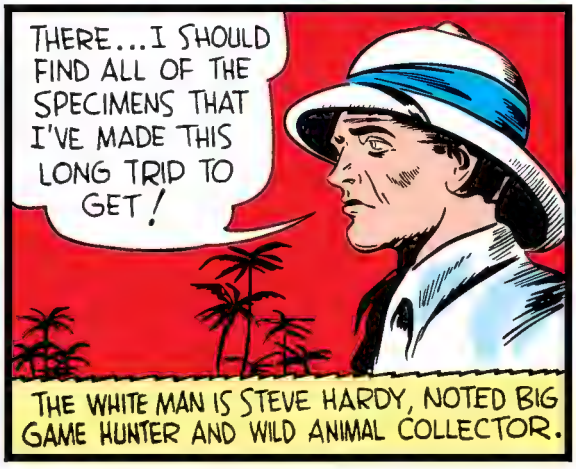
★ THIRD EPISODE ★

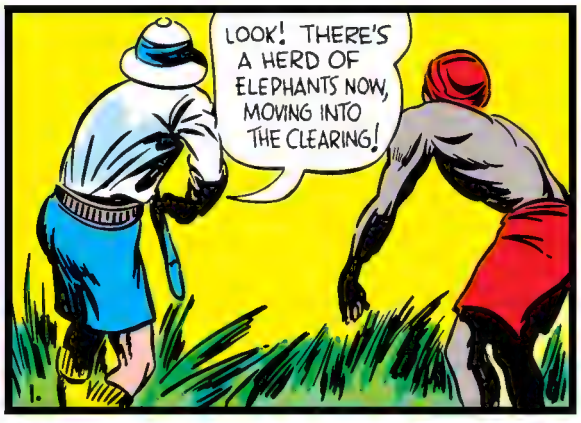
KA-ZAR IS THE SON OF JOHN RAND, OWNER OF RICH DIAMOND MINES, WHO CRASHES IN HIS AIRPLANE WITH HIS WIFE AND YOUNG SON IN THE HEART OF THE WILD **AFRICAN BELGIAN CONGO.** AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS, THE SMALL BOY DEVELOPS A FRIENDSHIP WITH **ZAR,** THE LION. AFTER SAVING **ZAR'S** LIFE, HE GOES TO LIVE WITH THE LION AND IS GIVEN THE NAME OF **KA-ZAR, BROTHER OF ZAR.** THE LAD GROWS TO MANHOOD KNOWING NO OTHER LIFE THAN THAT OF THE JUNGLE.

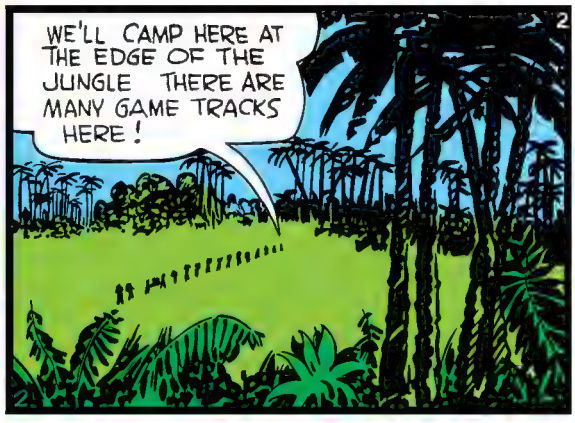




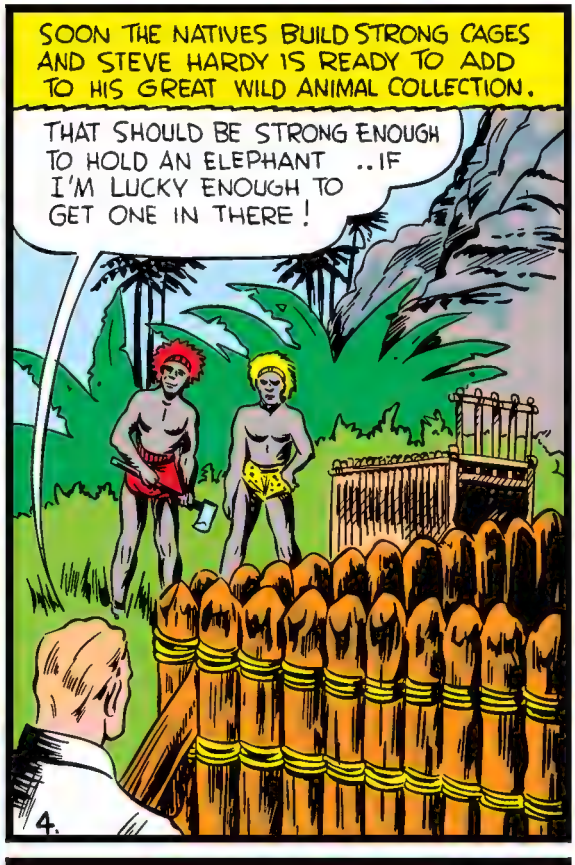


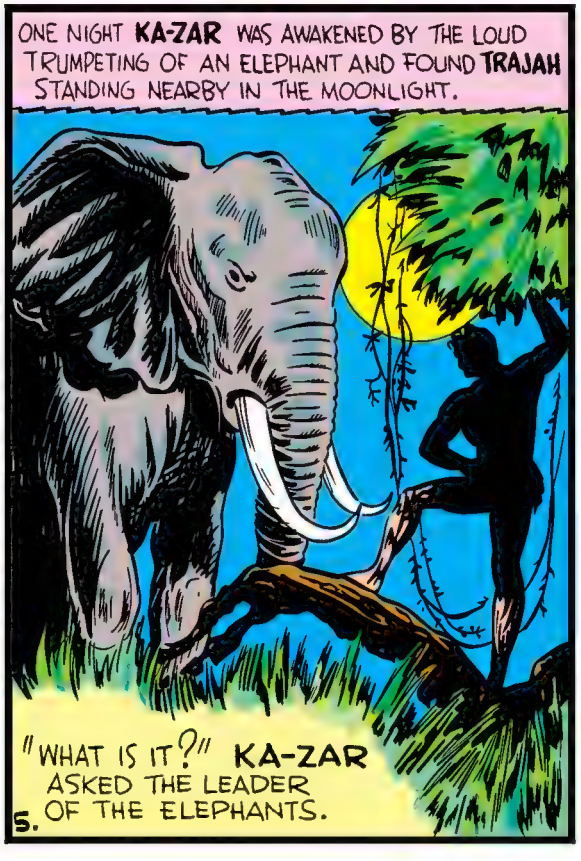

THERE...I SHOULD FIND ALL OF THE SPECIMENS THAT I'VE MADE THIS LONG TRIP TO GET!
THE WHITE MAN IS STEVE HARDY, NOTED BIG GAME HUNTER AND WILD ANIMAL COLLECTOR.

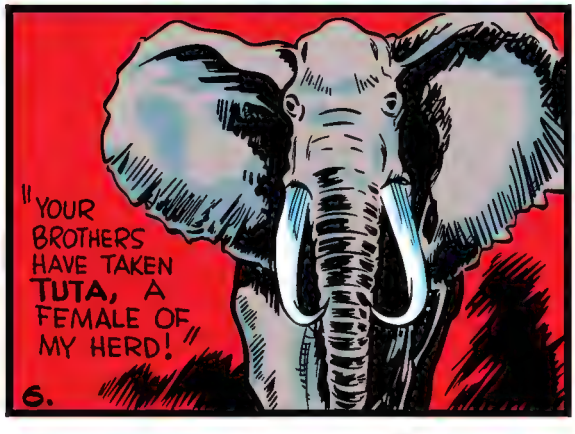

LOOK! THERE'S A HERD OF ELEPHANTS NOW, MOVING INTO THE CLEARING!
1.

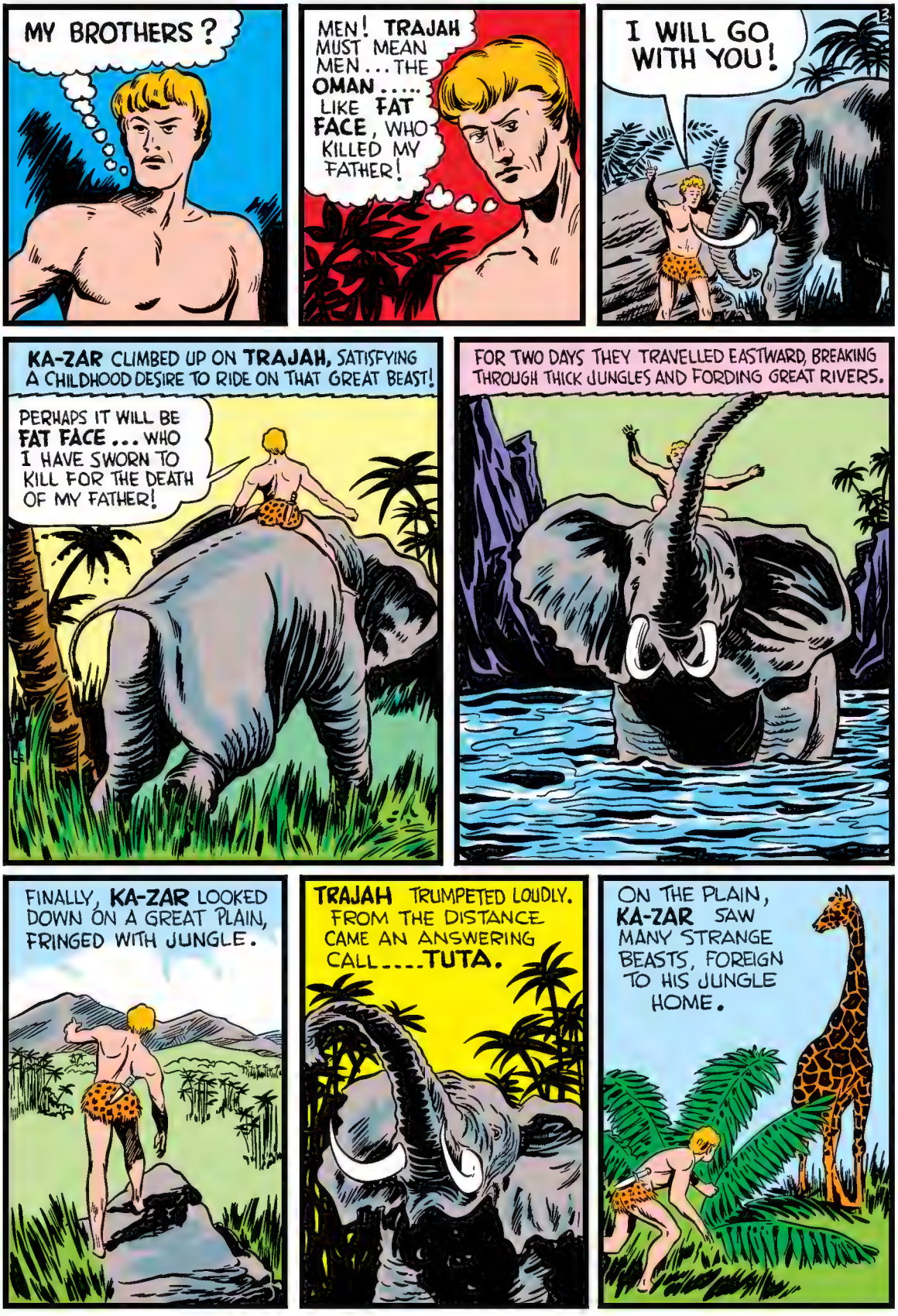

WE'LL CAMP HERE AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE THERE ARE MANY GAME TRACKS HERE!
2
2

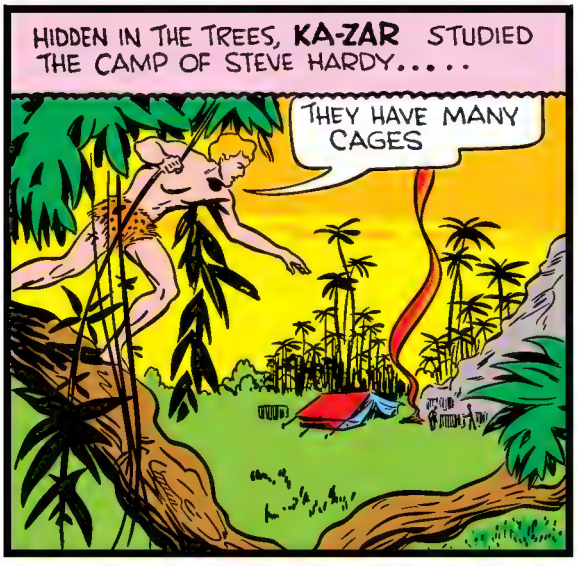
AS SOON AS THE BOYS FINISH SETTING UP CAMP, HAVE THEM START THE CONSTRUCTION OF CAGES AND STOCKADES!
3.

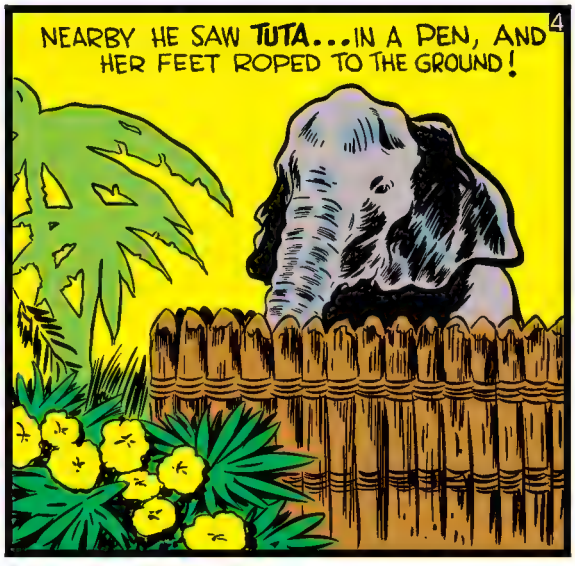

SOON THE NATIVES BUILD STRONG CAGES AND STEVE HARDY IS READY TO ADD TO HIS GREAT WILD ANIMAL COLLECTION.
THAT SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD AN ELEPHANT ..IF I'M LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET ONE IN THERE!
4.

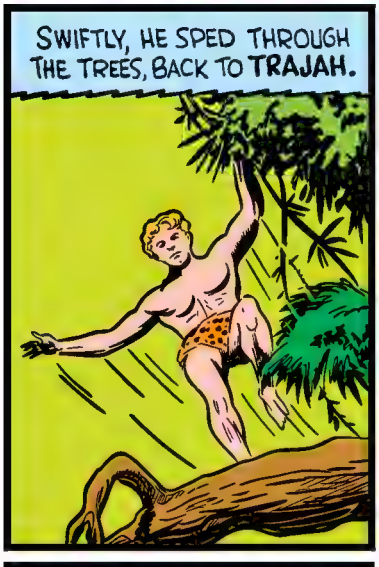

ONE NIGHT KA-ZAR WAS AWAKENED BY THE LOUD TRUMPETING OF AN ELEPHANT AND FOUND TRAJAH STANDING NEARBY IN THE MOONLIGHT.
"WHAT IS IT?" KA-ZAR ASKED THE LEADER OF THE ELEPHANTS.
5.

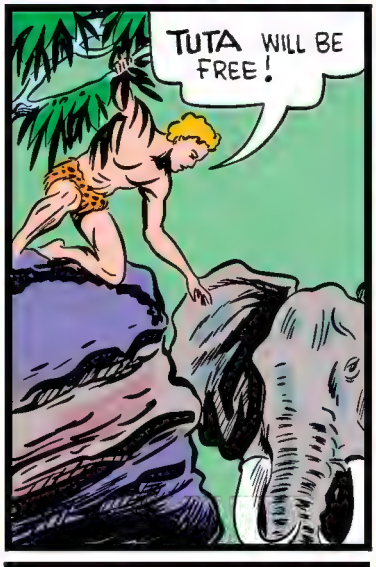

"YOUR BROTHERS HAVE TAKEN TUTA, A FEMALE OF MY HERD!"
6.


MY BROTHERS?
MEN! TRAJAH MUST MEAN MEN... THE OMAN..... LIKE FAT FACE, WHO KILLED MY FATHER!
I WILL GO WITH YOU!
KA-ZAR CLIMBED UP ON TRAJAH, SATISFYING A CHILDHOOD DESIRE TO RIDE ON THAT GREAT BEAST!
PERHAPS IT WILL BE FAT FACE... WHO I HAVE SWORN TO KILL FOR THE DEATH OF MY FATHER!
FOR TWO DAYS THEY TRAVELLED EASTWARD, BREAKING THROUGH THICK JUNGLES AND FORDING GREAT RIVERS.
FINALLY, KA-ZAR LOOKED DOWN ON A GREAT PLAIN, FRINGED WITH JUNGLE.
TRAJAH TRUMPETED LOUDLY. FROM THE DISTANCE CAME AN ANSWERING CALL....TUTA.
ON THE PLAIN, KA-ZAR SAW MANY STRANGE BEASTS, FOREIGN TO HIS JUNGLE HOME.


HIDDEN IN THE TREES, KA-ZAR STUDIED THE CAMP OF STEVE HARDY.....
THEY HAVE MANY CAGES


NEARBY HE SAW TUTA...IN A PEN, AND HER FEET ROPED TO THE GROUND!


SWIFTLY, HE SPED THROUGH THE TREES, BACK TO TRAJAH.

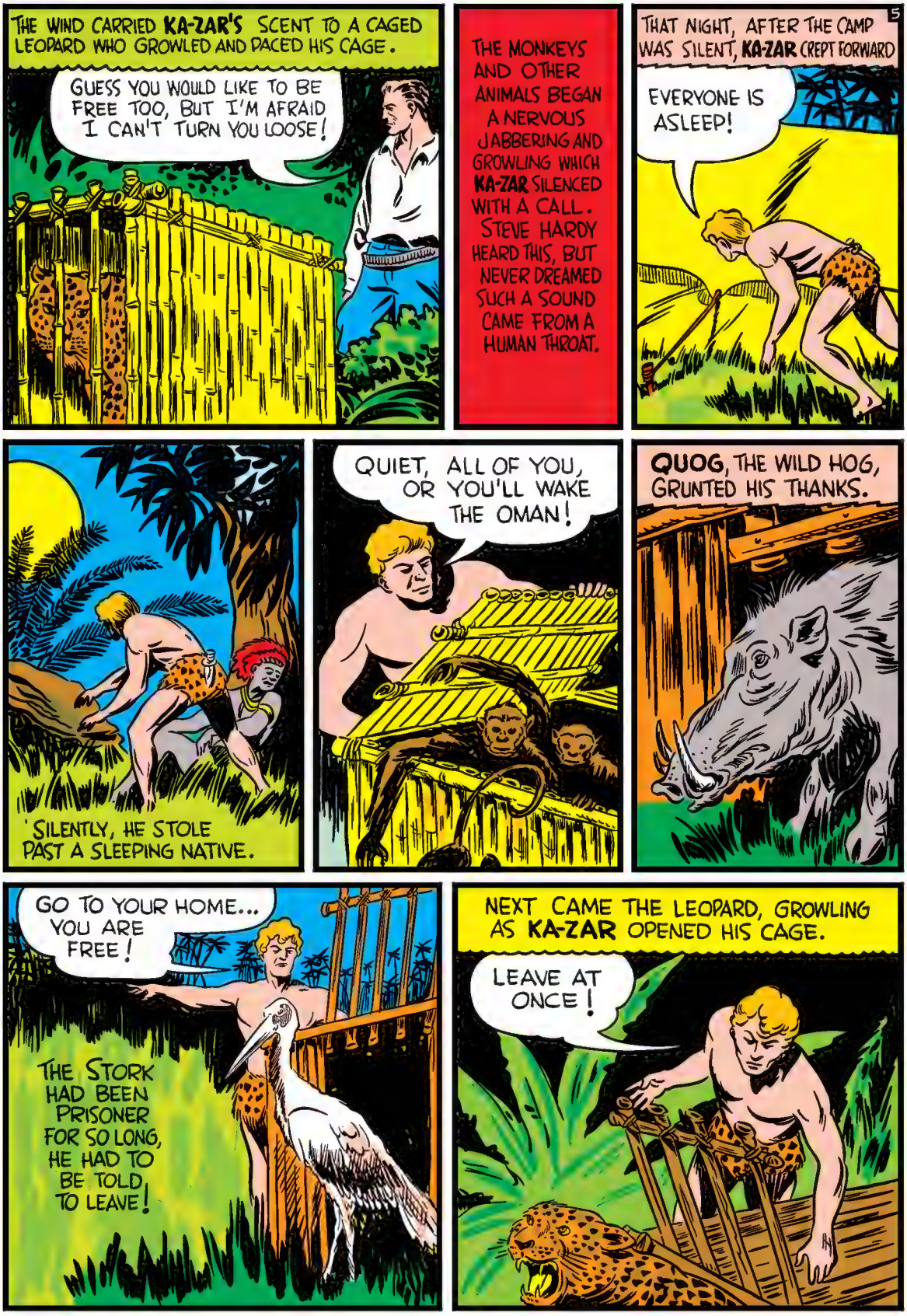

TUTA WILL BE FREE!

BUT, NOT NOW. WE MUST WAIT UNTIL NIGHT COMES...THEN I WILL GO TO THEIR CAMP. YOU MUST STAY HERE

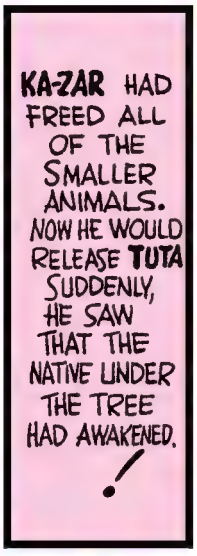
KA-ZAR. AGAIN WATCHED THE CAMP FROM A DISTANCE.
THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE CAGES! ALL MUST BE FREE!

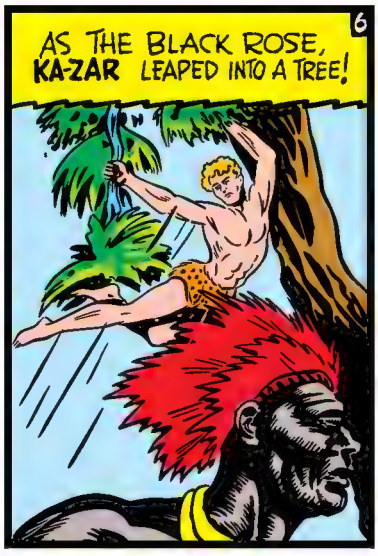
TRAJAH'S IMPATIENT TRUMPETING IN THE JUNGLE BROUGHT STEVE HARDY FROM HIS TENT.
SORRY, OLD BOY. BUT SHE CAN'T JOIN YOU. THERE'S A NEW HOME WAITING FOR HER.... IN A NICE ZOO!

KA-ZAR SAW THAT THIS MAN WAS NOT LIKE DE KRAFT, WHO HE CALLED FAT-FACE AND SWORE TO KILL!
WE WILL NOT HURT THE OMAN. I THINK HE MEANT TUTA NO HARM!

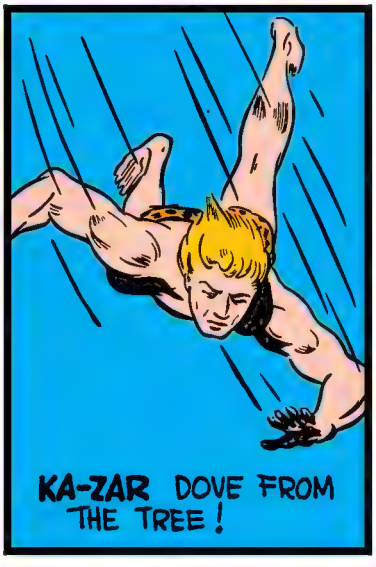

THE WIND CARRIED KA-ZAR'S SCENT TO A CAGED LEOPARD WHO GROWLED AND PACED HIS CAGE.
GUESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FREE TOO, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TURN YOU LOOSE!
THE MONKEYS AND OTHER ANIMALS BEGAN A NERVOUS JABBERING AND GROWLING WHICH KA-ZAR SILENCED WITH A CALL. STEVE HARDY HEARD THIS, BUT NEVER DREAMED SUCH A SOUND CAME FROM A HUMAN THROAT.
5
THAT NIGHT, AFTER THE CAMP WAS SILENT, KA-ZAR CREPT FORWARD
EVERYONE IS ASLEEP!
SILENTLY, HE STOLE PAST A SLEEPING NATIVE.
QUIET, ALL OF YOU, OR YOU'LL WAKE THE OMAN!
QUOG, THE WILD HOG, GRUNTED HIS THANKS.
GO TO YOUR HOME... YOU ARE FREE!
THE STORK HAD BEEN PRISONER FOR SO LONG, HE HAD TO BE TOLD TO LEAVE!
NEXT CAME THE LEOPARD, GROWLING AS KA-ZAR OPENED HIS CAGE.
LEAVE AT ONCE!

THE LEOPARD SPRANG STRAIGHT FOR HARDY'S TENT! BUT, AT A COMMAND FROM KA-ZAR HE TURNED AND WENT INTO THE JUNGLE.

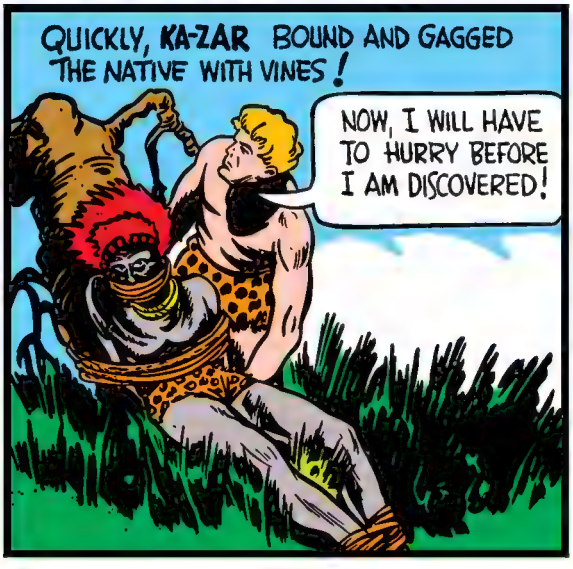

KA-ZAR HAD FREED ALL OF THE SMALLER ANIMALS. NOW HE WOULD RELEASE TUTA SUDDENLY, HE SAW THAT THE NATIVE UNDER THE TREE HAD AWAKENED.
!

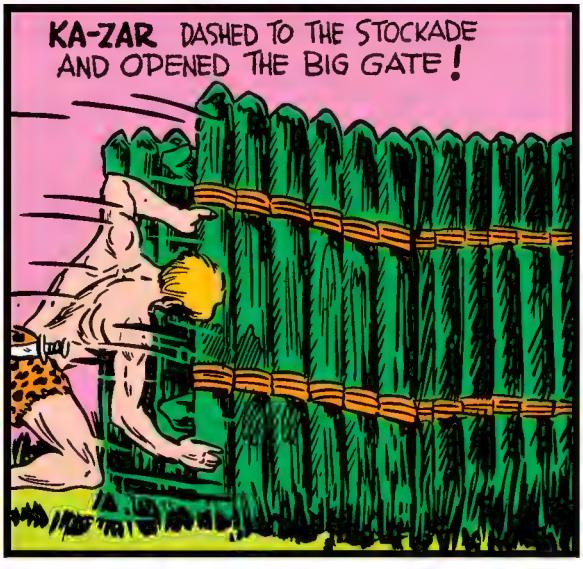

AS THE BLACK ROSE, KA-ZAR LEAPED INTO A TREE!

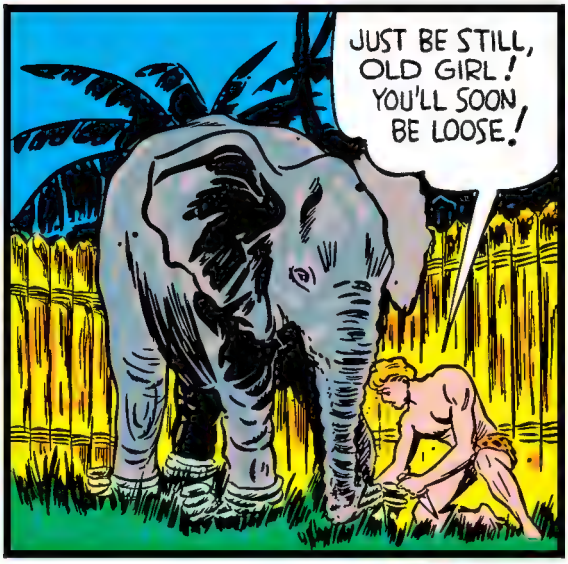
THE BLACK WALKED UNDER THE TREE IN WHICH KA-ZAR WAS HIDDEN...THEN HE SAW THE EMPTY CAGES!

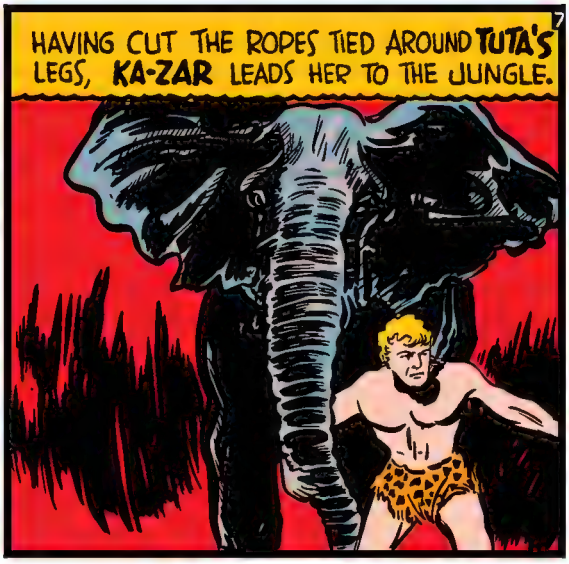

KA-ZAR DOVE FROM THE TREE!

BEFORE THE NATIVE COULD SOUND A WARNING, HE WAS KNOCKED TO THE GROUND!

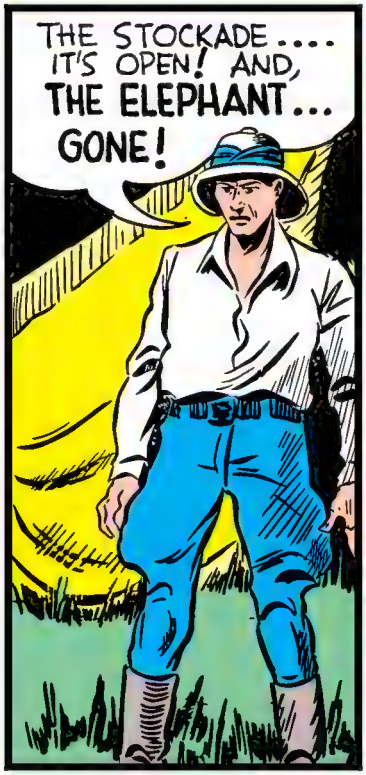

QUICKLY, KA-ZAR BOUND AND GAGGED THE NATIVE WITH VINES!
NOW, I WILL HAVE TO HURRY BEFORE I AM DISCOVERED!


KA-ZAR DASHED TO THE STOCKADE AND OPENED THE BIG GATE!





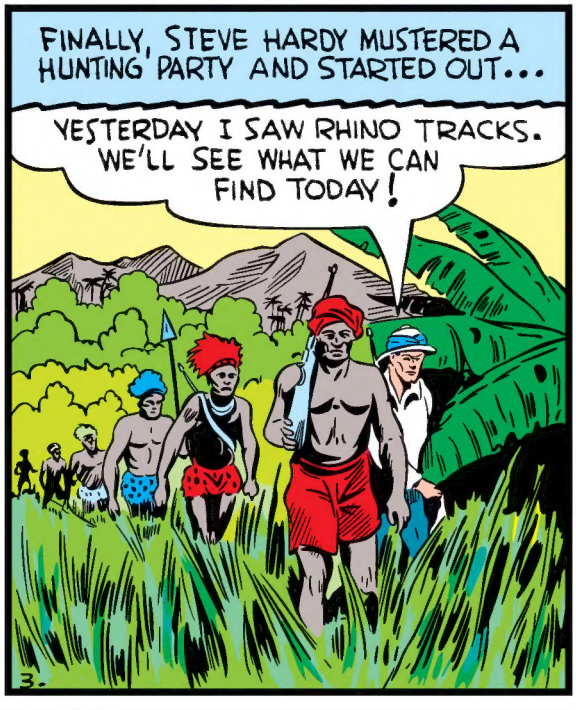
IN WILD-EYED TERROR, THE BOUND NATIVE WATCHES THE STRANGE WHITE FIGURE LEAD THE WILD AFRICAN ELEPHANT AWAY! SURELY, THE NATIVE THINKS, THIS MUST BE **A JUNGLE GOD!**

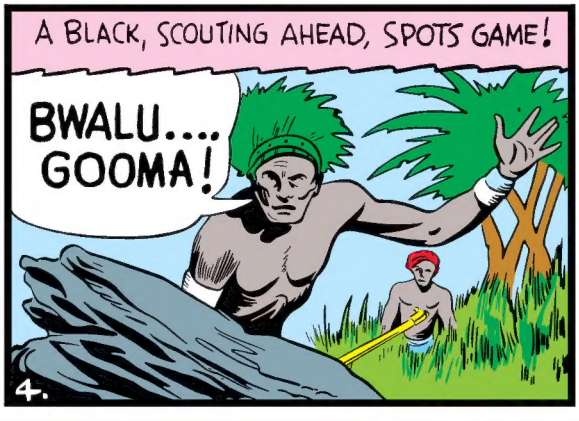


HARDY QUICKLY CUT THE NATIVE LOOSE . . .
ANGWAMA!
INKOSI, HE SAY GREAT WHITE GOD OF JUNGLE COME HERE!
COME ON . . . .TELL ME WHO TURNED THOSE ANIMALS OUT AND TIED YOU UP! YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT STORY ABOUT A JUNGLE GOD!
8
BUT, HE CLUNG TO THE STORY!
ANGWAMA!
I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THIS LOOKS MIGHTY QUEER! THESE ROPES HOLDING THE ELEPHANT WERE CUT BY A KNIFE . . . . . BUT, WHOSE KNIFE?
IN THE JUNGLE, KA-ZAR WATCHED, AND LISTENED! A CRAFTY SMILE STOLE OVER HIS FACE...
THEY MUST LEAVE!
ALL OF MY LABOR OF MONTHS UNDONE IN ONE NIGHT! SOME MAD HERMIT OF THE JUNGLE MUST HAVE DONE THIS!
EVEN HIS GUN BOY IS NERVOUS!
DON'T YOU THINK WE GO HOME, YES?
NONSENSE!

ENOUGH OF THAT FOOLISHNESS! I CAME A LONG DISTANCE TO GET ANIMALS, AND I'M GOING TO HAVE THEM! CALL THE BOYS TOGETHER FOR A HUNT!

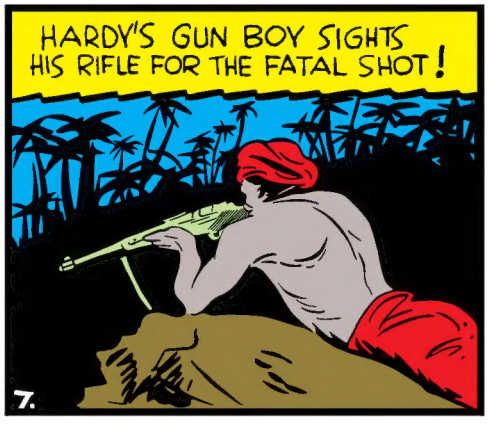
9
THE NATIVES GATHERED IN SMALL GROUPS, JABBERING IN AWED TONES ABOUT THE DREADED JUNGLE GOD.
2.

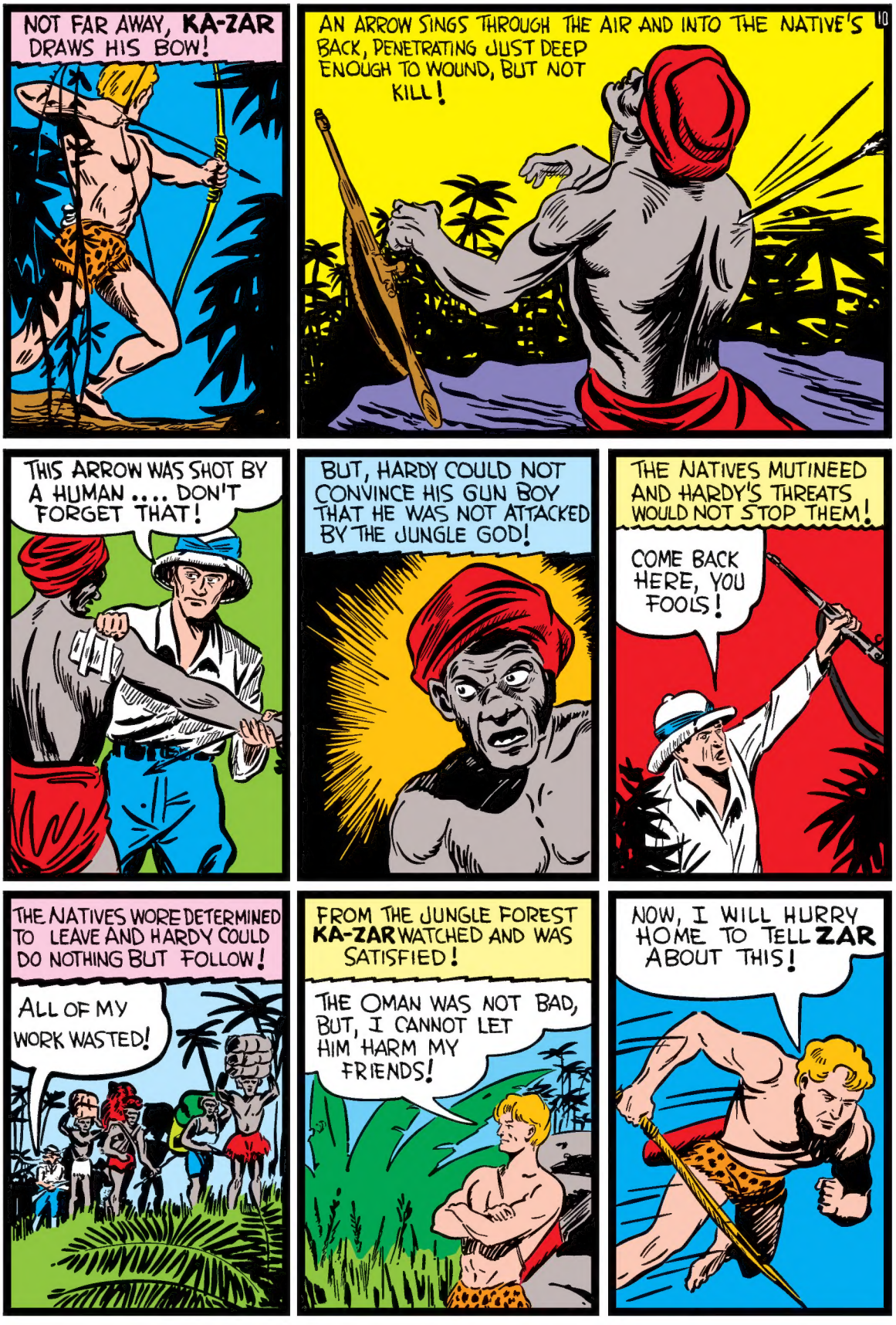

FINALLY, STEVE HARDY MUSTERED A HUNTING PARTY AND STARTED OUT...
YESTERDAY I SAW RHINO TRACKS. WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND TODAY!
3.

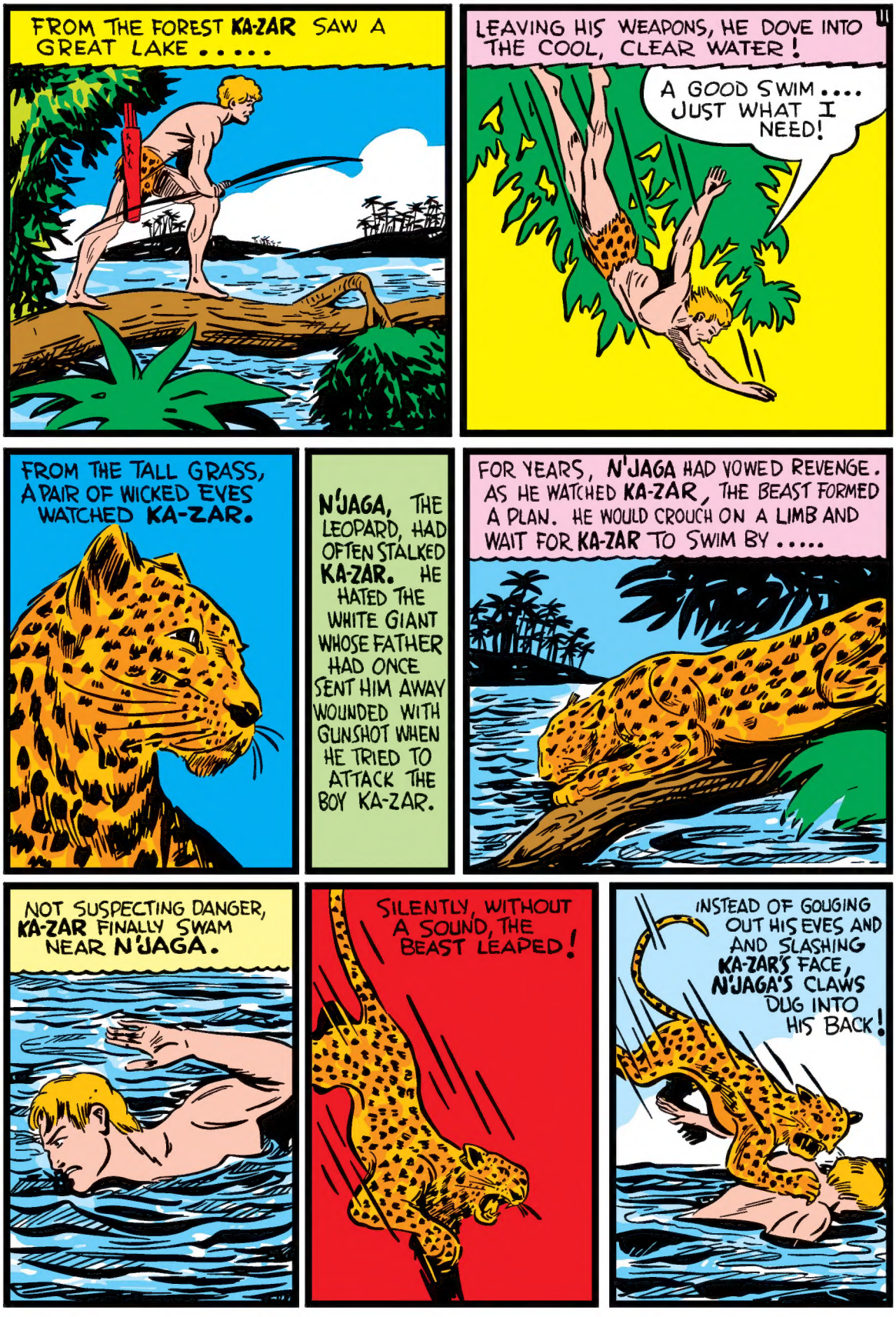

A BLACK, SCOUTING AHEAD, SPOTS GAME!
BWALU.... GOOMA!
4.

IT IS A BABY RHINOCEROUS WITH ITS MOTHER!
5.

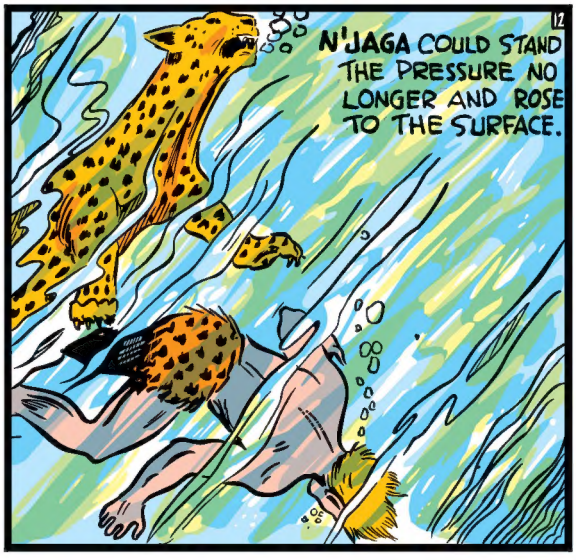
I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT, WE'LL HAVE TO KILL THE MOTHER TO CAPTURE THE CALF!
6.

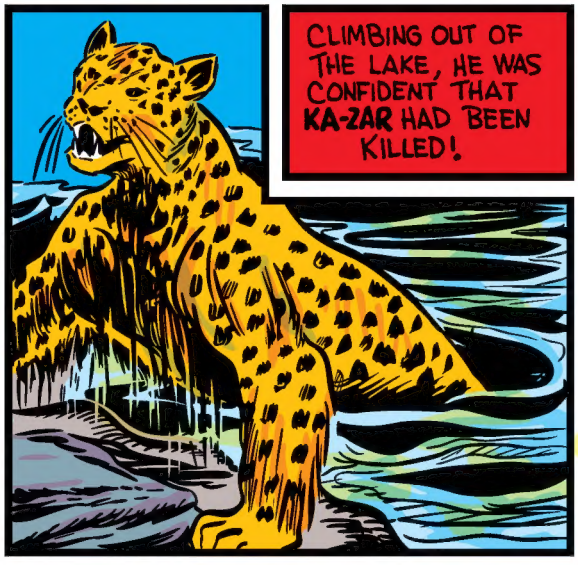

HARDY'S GUN BOY SIGHTS HIS RIFLE FOR THE FATAL SHOT!
7.


NOT FAR AWAY, KA-ZAR DRAWS HIS BOW!
AN ARROW SINGS THROUGH THE AIR AND INTO THE NATIVE'S BACK, PENETRATING JUST DEEP ENOUGH TO WOUND, BUT NOT KILL!
10
THIS ARROW WAS SHOT BY A HUMAN .... DON'T FORGET THAT!
BUT, HARDY COULD NOT CONVINCE HIS GUN BOY THAT HE WAS NOT ATTACKED BY THE JUNGLE GOD!
THE NATIVES MUTINEED AND HARDY'S THREATS WOULD NOT STOP THEM!
COME BACK HERE, YOU FOOLS!
THE NATIVES WORE DETERMINED TO LEAVE AND HARDY COULD DO NOTHING BUT FOLLOW!
ALL OF MY WORK WASTED!
FROM THE JUNGLE FOREST KA-ZAR WATCHED AND WAS SATISFIED!
THE OMAN WAS NOT BAD, BUT, I CANNOT LET HIM HARM MY FRIENDS!
NOW, I WILL HURRY HOME TO TELL ZAR ABOUT THIS!

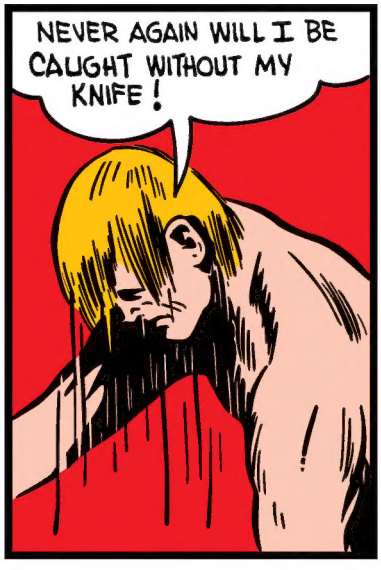

FROM THE FOREST KA-ZAR SAW A GREAT LAKE .....
LEAVING HIS WEAPONS, HE DOVE INTO THE COOL, CLEAR WATER!
A GOOD SWIM .... JUST WHAT I NEED!
FROM THE TALL GRASS, A PAIR OF WICKED EYES WATCHED KA-ZAR.
N'JAGA, THE LEOPARD, HAD OFTEN STALKED KA-ZAR. HE HATED THE WHITE GIANT WHOSE FATHER HAD ONCE SENT HIM AWAY WOUNDED WITH GUNSHOT WHEN HE TRIED TO ATTACK THE BOY KA-ZAR.
FOR YEARS, N'JAGA HAD VOWED REVENGE. AS HE WATCHED KA-ZAR, THE BEAST FORMED A PLAN. HE WOULD CROUCH ON A LIMB AND WAIT FOR KA-ZAR TO SWIM BY .....
NOT SUSPECTING DANGER, KA-ZAR FINALLY SWAM NEAR N'JAGA.
SILENTLY, WITHOUT A SOUND, THE BEAST LEAPED!
INSTEAD OF GOUGING OUT HIS EYES AND AND SLASHING KA-ZAR'S FACE, N'JAGA'S CLAWS DUG INTO HIS BACK!

TOGETHER, THEY SANK LIKE A STONE TO THE BOTTOM! KA-ZAR KNEW HIS ONLY SALVATION LAY IN STAYING UNDER WATER!


12
N'JAGA COULD STAND THE PRESSURE NO LONGER AND ROSE TO THE SURFACE.


CLIMBING OUT OF THE LAKE, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT KA-ZAR HAD BEEN KILLED!

BUT, THE JUNGLE GIANT LIVED! A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, HIDDEN BY A ROCK, HE RECAPTURED HIS SENSES!


NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE CAUGHT WITHOUT MY KNIFE!

ALTHOUGH KA-ZAR WAS NOW ON HIS WAY HOME FOR A MUCH NEEDED REST, HIS PLANS WERE SOON TO BE CHANGED. IN CAIRO THE VILLAINOUS DE KRAFT PLANNED ANOTHER TRIP TO THE JUNGLE!

NEXT ★ ★ MONTH
"RETURN OF THE OMAN!"
ANOTHER THRILLING JUNGLE ADVENTURE!
DON'T MISS IT!